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Kent on Sunday

www.kentnews.co.uk
February 26, 2017

East edition No 753

JUSTICE

Concerns over prison wage rises

Ex guard says it will not solve all the problems

COUNCIL

Medway hikes council tax bills

Authority meets to rubber-stamp increase in April

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Celebrate their lives, do not let illness define them

FOR anyone who has experienced the impact of cancer on a loved one or themselves, there is a ferocity and a savagery which never fails to rock your faith in the stability of life and highlight its remarkable fragility.

In a world where our sense of control of our day-to-day lives and, as a consequence, a perception of our destiny, is so strong, the power of an illness to rip apart a previously healthy individual in just days and weeks is as shocking as it is a tragedy.

This week, Kent on Sunday lost one of its own. Ynez Coton will have been known to many of you as head of our advertising department until last September. She got married in October, changing her name to Ynez Button, and was diagnosed with cancer in December. She was only 45. The speed and the ferocity of someone once so full of life, of vim and vigor, being cut down has left everyone who knew her, or whose path crossed with her, a sense of deep shock and sorrow. We have a special tribute to Ynez on page 12 and I know we will join colleagues from around Kent's local media industry in sending our condolences to her friends and family.

But of course this is an agony experienced by so many on a daily basis. Cancer does not care. Nor is it fair. It is cruel and it is so often relentless.

It deprives us of parents, children, husbands, wives, friends, colleagues and for all our best efforts, it continues to do so. In its wake are the shattered lives of so many. The shattered dreams and the shattered hearts.

Yet the only way to beat it, is to never let the illness define the victim. And to do that is to celebrate the life and bathe in the sunshine those taken too soon shone across those they knew and loved. That is the true gift they bring.

Editor **Chris Britcher**

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PAGE 12 »

PAGE 22 »

PAGE 14 »

PAGE 20 »

PAGE 19 »

PAGE 05 »

Contents

News

05 **Noye wins open jail bid**
Road-rage killer wins his legal challenge

07 **Election cost row escalates**
Ukip accused now of spending too much

11 **Open will be back in 2020**
Major economic boost as major returns

12 **Tribute to our Ynez**
We remember one of our most beloved former colleagues

14 **Prison pay rise fears**
Ex-guard says it will not solve problems over recruitment

16 **Jail's failings at inquest**
Family says more could have been done

19 **Medway ups council tax**
Authority follows Kent in hiking its bills

20 **Cup hero's shock death**
Fans of Ebbsfleet United shocked by 2008 skipper's passing

PAGE 27 »

22 **Review of Geek 2017**
It's not game over as event returns in style

The Arts

27 **Jason on life close to 50**
Star speaks ahead of Canterbury shows

Motors

37 **New Reg 17**
Your guide to buying brand new next month

Plus

Letters ..... Page 34
Images of Kent ..... Page 35
Sport ..... Page 47

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Noye eyes open prison after High Court victory

By Cathy Gordon
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

WIN: Justice secretary will now make ruling on where Noye, above, serves his sentence

ROAD-rage killer Kenneth Noye has won a High Court challenge against a decision refusing him a move to open prison conditions.

Noye, now 69, was convicted of murder in April 2000 and sentenced to life with a minimum term of 16 years, after stabbing 21-year-old Dartford electrician Stephen Cameron to death in an attack on a slip road of the M25 in Swanley in 1996.

In September 2015 the Parole Board declined to order his release, but recommended he be transferred to open conditions. But the board's recommendation was rejected by then justice secretary Michael Gove.

A judge in London ruled in Noye's favour on Friday.

Mr Justice Lavender said: "It will be for the current secretary of state to take a fresh decision whether or not to transfer the claimant to an open prison."

Noye's QC argued at a hearing last month that the rejection decision was "unlawful and irrational".

The judicial review challenge was contested by current Justice Secretary Liz Truss, who said there was "nothing irrational" in the decision taken.

A Ministry of Justice spokeswoman said: "We have noted the court's findings and will consider."

Noye, who lived in West Kingsdown, was at the centre of a huge manhunt after the M25 attack as he went on the run. He was eventually traced to Spain where he was arrested and hauled back to the UK to face justice.

At the January hearing, Edward Fitzgerald QC, for Noye, said the Parole Board panel "concluded that the benefits of a move to open conditions outweighed the risk of such a move, and they found that the claimant's risk had significantly reduced" since the killing of Mr Cameron.

He added: "They noted that he had made significant progress in changing his attitudes and tackling his behavioural problems."

In taking that view, said the QC, the panel "recorded that they had taken into account the very serious nature" of the offence, the claimant's "criminal history, and the suspicion that he enjoyed close links to the world of serious organised crime" and that the panel "had very much taken into account the question of the risk of the claimant absconding".

App to play key role in major crackdown on heritage crime threat

CULTURE bosses have this week launched a scheme to protect Kent's heritage against crime.

Heritage Watch encourages the public to help detect offences in areas across the county, using tools such as Country Eye, a new crime prevention app.

Heritage crime is any offence which harms the value of heritage assets and their settings for this and future generations.

It covers a wide variety of criminal activity that is responsible for damaging historic buildings and sites.

These offences range from graffiti, vandalism, theft of metal and stone, arson and unlawful salvage of shipwrecks.

Mark Harrison, national policing and crime advisor for Historic England explained: "Heritage Watch provides the opportunity to identify the criminal minority that are intent on causing loss or damage to our shared cultural heritage.

"The Heritage Watch partnership and the Country Eye app provide the community with modern technology that helps us protect Kent's past for future generations."

Sandra Matthews-Marsh, CEO, Visit Kent added: "Kent is a treasure trove of some of England's finest heritage assets attracting over 60 million visitors each year.

"This is a way in which we can all be involved in ensuring these wonderful places are secured for future generations. We will be promoting Heritage Watch to all our partners to get behind the campaign."

Kent's police and crime commissioner Matthew Scott concluded: "I encourage everyone to download the free Country Eye app from the Heritage Watch website and use it to report anything suspicious in their communities."

In Kent and Medway there are currently 17,944 listed buildings, 422 scheduled monuments, 62 registered parks and gardens, 11 protected wrecks and two world heritage sites.

Disruption on roads and rails as Doris gusts batter county

GALE force winds of 70mph from Storm Doris battered the county on Thursday, causing chaos on the roads and rails.

Both the QEII Bridge at the Dartford Crossing and the Sheppey Crossing were closed as a result of the strong winds, which meant thousands of cars had to find alternative routes, which led to lengthy queues across the county's road network.

There were also reports of trees being blown over and causing further disruption on roads.

On the rails meanwhile, passengers also experienced disruption, as Southeastern bosses insisted on a maximum 50mph speed limit to ensure safety.

The forecast for the weekend, however, is far calmer and milder.

Hornby visitor centre plans in port town are derailed

BOSSES at Hornby Hobbies have confirmed they are no longer proceeding with plans to build a visitor centre at Ramsgate Harbour.

The Scalextric and model train giant had planned to create the centre next to the maritime museum in the Thanet port town, but now it appears a new backer must be found.

Hornby has been battling financial woes for some time, announcing early last year that some 45 per cent had been wiped off its share price. In December 2015, it posted losses of £4.5m in the six months to September 30, up from £500,000 a year earlier.

Its headquarters are at Discovery Park in Sandwich - after moving out of its long-time home in Margate.

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London man charged for assaulting officer

A LONDON man who assaulted a police officer whilst being arrested for supplying class A drugs in Tunbridge Wells has been charged and remanded in custody.

Julian Mason, 33, was arrested after a vehicle he was driving was stopped in Reynolds Lane, on February 22.

He was later charged with possession with intent to supply cocaine, possession with intent to supply heroin, possession with intent to supply crack cocaine and possession with intent to supply MDMA and assaulting a police officer.

He appeared before Chatham Magistrates' Court on February 22 and was remanded in custody. He is scheduled to next appear on the week of March 23.

Theatre unveils plans for museum site as end of consultation nears

By Chris Britcher
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POKEMON Go-style technology, an escape room game with a literary twist, and a digital suite have all been unveiled in plans for a theatre's proposed takeover of the Canterbury Heritage Museum.

In a major shake-up of its arts facilities, Canterbury City Council confirmed last month it was to pass the management of the Marlowe Theatre into the hands of a charitable trust. That, in turn, would then rent the existing listed building in Stour Street.

The museum exhibits will be moved, in the main, to the Beaney House of Art and Knowledge in the main pedestrianised High Street.

Now Marlowe chiefs have unveiled its plans for the site which will be turned into an arts and heritage centre.

The Marlowe's general manager, Paula Gillespie, said: "We will continue to use Canterbury's unique heritage - in particular its literary heritage – to create a space that is open and welcoming to all. One that uses our heritage to both illuminate the past and to provide creative inspiration for our writers of the future - it will be alive with activity, creativity and inspiration."

SITE: Stour Street museum

Plans include a young visitors' programme, incorporating a digital heritage project, which will use the latest technology to bring the past to life. There is an ambition to create an augmented reality experience, using similar technologies to Pokemon Go, and a digital suite that will record oral histories connected to the heritage collections presented both online and in exhibitions.

The escape room will have links to Canterbury's literary heritage with themes including Christopher Marlowe's escape from imprisonment in Flanders, and Joseph Conrad's adventures at sea.

The Marlowe Youth Theatre programme will be expanded as well as offering office and rehearsal space for the city's "growing cultural community".

Public consultation on the proposal to transfer key exhibits to the Beaney ends on Wednesday, March 1. See the city council's website for details.

FRIENDS: The Bake Off judges

Berry 'would always stand by' Hollywood

FORMER Great British Bake Off judge Mary Berry has said that she had her differences with Paul Hollywood, but she "admired him a lot".

Mr Hollywood lives near Canterbury and will be continuing with the Great British Bake Off when it moves to Channel 4.

The 81-year-old decided to stay with the BBC and presenters Mel Giedroyc and Sue Perkins when Channel 4 poached the hit show, saying that she was never tempted by the money.

She told Radio Times magazine "no one was more surprised than me" when Bake Off left the BBC, but that she avoided even being asked to join the show at its new home.

"I wasn't [attracted by a bigger pay cheque] and anyway, I was never asked to go. I avoided being asked. It was suggested what would happen if I did go to Channel 4, what I would get, the advantages. But I didn't ever have a meeting with them. I'd made up my mind. To me, it's an honour to be on the BBC. I was brought up on it."

The baking queen said of her fellow judge: "I would always stand by him. Paul and I had our differences about what was important to us, but he is a brilliant bread-maker and I admired him a lot."

Thugs plea guilty to boiling water attack

TWO 'barbaric and cruel' thugs who tied up an elderly couple and tortured them with boiling water have admitted committing burglary and assault.

Kacey Adams, 33, and Daniel Wallace, 32, smashed their way into a property in London Road, Halstead, belonging to a couple in their 60s on April 26 last year.

The victims were tied up and repeatedly assaulted as the men demanded money. Boiling water from a kettle was poured over their heads and bodies and they were also both beaten and threatened with a knife and a hot iron.

The woman suffered around 30 per cent burns to her body and required treatment in an intensive care unit for a number of months.

Adams, formerly of Covert Road, Hainault, Ilford and Wallace, of no fixed address were arrested on May 31 at Heathrow Airport and pleaded guilty this week.

Sentencing has been adjourned to a later date.

Are our high streets London dormitories?

KENT'S quirkiest high streets are at risk of losing their cultural value and becoming ''dormitories for London'', a county MP has warned.

With the rise of online shopping and banking, high streets have come under threat in recent years, no more so than in Kent where MPs have criticised major banks for closing dozens of county branches.

Small firms are finding it harder than ever to survive, with business rates - a tax on the rateable value of their property - on the rise, and footfall on high streets and in town centres on the decline.

Tonbridge and Malling MP Tom Tugendhat told the Commons: ''I wonder whether the leader of the house might encourage the government to give some time to talk about not just the economic value of the high street but the culture that it brings.

''Otherwise towns like those that I represent, Edenbridge, West Malling and Tonbridge, will simply be dormitories for London and lose the very essence that keeps our county and our country so great.''

Cops hunt thieves of model helicopters

A WIDOWER has seen his prized collection of model helicopters, worth thousands of pounds, stolen just weeks after the death of his wife.

The scale model replicas were stolen from the garage of a property in Cedar Avenue, Gravesend at some point between February 13 and February 17.

Thieves also damaged the garage door during the break-in.

Last Saturday, a keen-eyed officer spotted one of the model helicopters, a JR500, dumped in a bush down an alleyway close to the property.

Now Kent Police is looking for the remaining models - a Red Bull BO105 and a Tomahawk.

Sgt Alan Willett from Kent Police said: ''The owner of these helicopters is a 74-year-old man whose wife sadly passed away earlier this month.

''The victim, who has been building and flying such models since the 1970s, made these replicas from scratch, so we would very much like to reunite him with all of the stolen items.''

If you can help, call police on 01474 366149.

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Fresh row over spending on South Thanet election trail

By Adele Couchman
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THERE are calls for an investigation into alleged over election spending by Ukip during Nigel Farage's failed bid to become an MP for South Thanet.

Left leaning pressure group Hope not Hate has claimed Ukip failed to declare significant election expenditure, saying the party spent twice as much as they were allowed. Claims Mr Farage, who until recently lived in Westerham, has strongly denied.

The group said whilst South Thanet candidates were allowed to spend £15,087.30 in the election period from April 9 to May 7 2015, Ukip spent at least £26,000 during this period and possibly "well over £35,000".

Hope not Hate said its investigation found campaign staff, billboards and mobile advans omitted from the South Thanet electoral returns.

With Kent Police and the Electoral Commission already investigating claims that the victor in the constituency battle in May 2015, Conservative Craig Mackinlay overspent during his campaign, the pressure group said it is writing to police to demand it widens its investigation into Nigel Farage's campaign.

Speaking to the BBC, the former Ukip leader strongly rejected the claims.

PROBE: After Tory overspending, now comes claims Ukip was at it too. Pic: ADY KERRY

He said: "I didn't do the returns myself, but I was deeply conscious the whole way through that we had to be desperately careful. I have no reason to think anything's wrong.

"I must have asked the question 'are we absolutely sure we've got this right?' ten times, and I was absolutely assured that we had done this as thoroughly and as professionally as we could."

An investigation into Tory spending on the seat was launched off the back off allegations made by Channel 4 in 2016. The investigation reported that spending on the Royal Harbour Hotel in Ramsgate and Premier Inn in Margate was not national campaign spending and therefore should not have been included in the party's expenses return.

The Conservatives, and Mr Mackinlay, have long denied any wrongdoing, claiming all spending was correctly recorded in accordance with the law.

There are strict restrictions on spending in a constituency during a general election campaign.

Restaurants warned of burglary threats

MEDWAY'S Chinese restaurateurs were given special security advice on Tuesday at an event organised by Kent Police

The event was held at Rendezvous Yoon's on Chatham High Street where community liaison officer Bob Mahay told restaurant owners how to can protect their businesses from burglars, giving out free property-marking pens and security literature printed in different languages.

Boundary changes consultation ending

TIME is running out to have your say on proposed ward boundary changes in and around Ashford which would see the number of councillors increase by four to 47.

The independent Local Government Boundary Commission for England closes its consultation period on April 3.

Plans for river port

A consultation has been launched in Gravesend into plans for an empty power station to become a new port along the river Thames.

The former Tilbury Power Station was decommissioned in 2013, but plans have now been revealed to create a satellite for the main port.

The consultation is at Gravesend Old Town Hall on March 16, from 10am to 6pm.

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Hundreds line city streets to protest ahead of Trump visit

HUNDREDS turned out in Canterbury on Monday night to protest against the "hatred, racism and division" of Donald Trump as the state visit by the US President was debated in parliament.

Canterbury Action Network (CAN) took part in a national day of anti-Trump protests in co-ordination with the One Day Without Us movement, which celebrates the contribution of migrants to the UK.

It is reported that more than 200 protestors marched through Canterbury's streets while MPs considered Theresa May's decision to extend the state visit invitation to Mr Trump in response to two petitions signed by millions of Brits.

Hannah Marendziuk-Uglow of CAN said: "Canterbury didn't respond to the protests in January and we've always been political so for us not to respond felt like a disaster. People say the marches won't make a difference, but by staying silent you are being complicit.

"The prospect of a state visit riled us because we're essentially paying £10m to roll out the red carpet for someone who has not run their government in accordance with the values the US stands for."

Leader hits out at call to pull plug on street names

PLANS to stop town halls naming roads after local heroes have been slammed by a council leader who last year rubber-stamped the re-naming of a street after a murdered Kent schoolgirl.

Worried council chiefs have reportedly issued advice to local authorities across the country not to re-name streets after people because they might one day be linked to inappropriate activities.

Bosses in Leeds were left red-faced and with a large bill to pay after having to replace signs named after Jimmy Savile, who was notoriously outed as a paedophile after his death in 2011.

Dartford Borough Council last year approved a bid to re-name a street after Claire Tiltman, who was stabbed multiple times in an alleyway close to her home in Greenhithe in 1993.

Leader Jeremy Kite this week told KoS his authority would continue to honour local heroes they felt were deserving of such recognition despite recommendations from the Local Government Association.

"It's a load of nonsense, and part of this tendency to suck the goodwill and spirit out of anything that makes a community. Councils should be trusted over re-naming roads after local people - we're soon to be honouring some war heroes - and they are then accountable for those decisions.

"But we would not fall into the trap of naming a street after somebody who won Big Brother or the X Factor, we do it for people who have made a lasting and significant contribution. "This is just another example of terrible blandness creeping in."

Bowie scoops gongs

DAVID Bowie has won two gongs at the Brit Awards, just over a year since his death.

The music superstar who lived in Bromley, Maidstone and Beckenham, was named best British Male Solo Artist, while his final album Blackstar, released just two days before his death, won Album of the Year.

£1.3m boat on Thames

A £1.3m new boat will soon be spotted on the Thames to help transfer pilots up the river to join their vessels.

Ordered by Estuary Services Limited, a joint venture between the Port of London Authority and Peel Ports London Medway it forms part of its fleet replacement plan.

Man killed in smash

A 45-year-old man has died after his car left the carriageway on a busy road between Canterbury and Herne Bay.

The crash happened on the A291 Canterbury Road in Herne near the juction to Bullockstone Road at 2.43pm on Thursday afternoon.

School 'flasher' bailed

AN ARREST has been made after a man indecently exposed himself near a primary school in Aylesford.

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Milo in sexual abuse row

By Emily King
emily.king@archant.co.uk

BREITBART news editor Milo Yiannopoulos has resigned after coming under fire from other conservatives over comments on sexual relationships between boys and men.

Speaking to reporters in New York on Tuesday, the writer and provocative public speaker apologised for his remarks.

Mr Yiannopoulos, who was expelled from Canterbury's Simon Langton Grammar School for Boys, said his experiences as a victim of sexual abuse as a teenager made him feel he could say outrageous things on the subject.

He said that was a mistake, and said he never intended to suggest sexual abuse of minors is okay.

On Monday he was disinvited from the Conservative Political Action Conference after a video of his remarks was promoted through social media by a conservative blog.

Publisher Simon & Schuster announced it would cancel the publication of his upcoming book, Dangerous.

More than 100 Simon & Schuster authors had objected to his book deal, announced last December, and Roxane Gay withdrew a planned book.

Some bookstores had said they would not sell his book, although the National Coalition Against Censorship and other free speech organisations had defended the publisher.

Mr Yiannopoulos was due to speak at his old school last year, but the talk was cancelled amid safety concerns.

Simon Langton Grammar School for Boys said it had pulled the address to sixth formers after being contacted by the Department for Education's (DfE) "counter extremism unit".

A spokesman for the school said: "Within 24 hours of advertising the event, 220 Langton sixth formers had, with parental consent, signed up for the event and that objection to our hosting Mr Yiannopoulos came almost entirely from people with no direct connection to The Langton.

"Whilst disappointed that both the pastoral care and intellectual preparation we offer to our students has been called into question, we at The Langton remain committed to the principle of free speech and open debate and will resist, where possible, all forms of censorship."

CONTROVERSIAL: Milo Yiannopoulos was expelled from Simon Langton Grammar School for Boys

MP achieves personal best

A KENT MP competed in the Nuffield Health Tunbridge Wells Half Marathon on Sunday, completing the route in a personal best of one hour and 26 minutes.

Rehman Chishti, who represents the Gillingham and Rainham constituency, will also be running the London Marathon again later this year to raise money in memory of Medway councillor Mike O'Brien who died last year.

"This was certainly a hilly half marathon, with a beautiful scenic route almost on par with what Medway has to offer," he said.

46 months for drug thieves

BURGLARS who stole diazepam from a pharmacy in Herne Bay and were caught by police while trying to climb out of a skylight, have been jailed for 46 months.

Kenneth James Glover, 39, of King's Road, was sentenced to 24 months for the crime on December 4, and Jamie Collings, 39, of no fixed address, received a jail sentence of 22 months at Maidstone Crown Court on Monday.

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It's coming back: The Open to tee off in 2020

Tom Pyman reports on why golf fans can look forward to the major rolling into Sandwich again in three years

WINNER: Darren Clarke was an emotional winner when Sandwich last hosted the tournament. Pics: ADY KERRY

THE finest golf talent on the planet will return to Kent in 2020 after it was this week confirmed that Royal St George's in Sandwich will host The 149th Open, pumping an estimated £100m into the local economy.

It represents the 15th time the event will be held in the county, with The Open last played at Royal St George's in 2011 when Darren Clarke showed his mastery of links golf in challenging weather conditions to hold off Americans Phil Mickelson and Dustin Johnson to become Champion Golfer of the Year.

"It was an unbelievable feeling to lift the Claret Jug and know that my name was displayed on the trophy alongside so many of the greatest players ever to play the game," said Mr Clarke.

"The Open is what it is all about for me as a golfer and it is the championship I always dreamt of winning from when I first took up the game as a kid.

"I have so many wonderful memories from that week at Sandwich and I will be thrilled to go back there for The Open in three years' time."

The Open is the oldest of golf's four major championship, and is a 72-hole stroke play tournament played over four days between some 156 players, which is then reduced to 70 at the mid-way point.

Martin Slumbers, chief executive of ruling authority, The R&A, said following the announcement this week: "The Open is a true celebration of sport and the global spotlight will fall once again on Sandwich.

"Royal St George's has produced a series of outstanding champion golfers over the last 120 years and it is a thrilling prospect for golf fans to see the greatest players competing on one of the world's finest links courses."

James Furber, the captain of Royal St George's, added: "This is tremendous news for the club and a wonderful commercial opportunity for Sandwich, Thanet and Kent.

"The club is most grateful to all those in the local authorities and the local MPs who have worked so hard with us over the last few years to bring this about.

"We look forward to working with The R&A and others over the next three years to deliver one of the world's most prestigious championships in 2020."

Royal St George's first hosted The Open in 1894 and it was the first occasion on which the championship was played outside of Scotland.

The 35th Open was won by JH Taylor, who became the first English professional to win the championship.

Over the years, the historic links at Sandwich has seen some of golf's greatest players lift the Claret Jug including Harry Vardon, Walter Hagen, Henry Cotton, Bobby Locke, Sandy Lyle and Greg Norman, who secured a two-shot victory over Sir Nick Faldo in 1993.

The news was welcomed by politicians across the county, who have witnessed the economic benefits the event has brought in recent years.

South Thanet MP Craig Mackinlay said the announcement was "fantastic news" and that 200,000 visitors to the course could provide a boost of some £100m to the east Kent economy."

"In 2011 there were over 180,000 visitors to The Open, and an extra 37,000 passengers travelled on the special high speed train service from London St Pancras," Kent County Council leader, Paul Carter, said this week.

"The benefits to the tourist economy was massive, amounting to over £64m.

"Significant transport improvements were needed to improve spectator flows in and out of Royal St George's and KCC has played a leading role in facilitating partnership funding with the local enterprise partnership and district councils of Dover and Thanet."

Earlier this year, some councillors at KCC called for high speed infrastructure extended from Ashford to Dover and Deal, and those calls are likely to grow louder ahead of The Open, which is expected to draw thousands of golf fans to east Kent.

However, the council's transport planner for rail, Stephen Gasche, replied to the calls, saying that the 90-minute journey to London St Pancras was "probably as fast as it can be" but added that he did want to see "overall enhancement for east Kent".

Paul Watkins, leader of Dover District Council, said: "The Open is the biggest sporting event to come to the region and provides the perfect showcase for Dover and the wider east Kent area.

"We're proud to have some of the world's finest links courses and The Open always provides a huge boost to the local economy.

"We look forward to working with The R&A and partners to deliver another outstanding event in 2020."

Christian Brodie, chairman of the South East Local Enterprise Partnership (SELEP), which champions economic growth in Kent and Medway, added: "The Open is one of the country's iconic sporting events and it's fantastic news that Royal St George's will host it again.

"The Open in 2016 was worth an estimated £110m to Troon and Scotland and in 2020 it will present us with an opportunity to highlight the economic opportunities for business to invest in east Kent to a global audience."

The event could even welcome a presidential guest, after former Ukip leader Nigel Farage joked at the end of last year that he would bring his close friend, Donald Trump, to Kent with him, insisting the US leader would love Royal St George's and other championship courses in South Thanet.

Council chiefs in east Kent are currently consulting with councillors on plans to merge four districts, including Thanet and Dover, into one 'super council'.

At a meeting outlining the proposals last month, local authority leaders said a merged council - which would be the largest district in the country - would give them more clout and more ability to push for infrastructure to strengthen the east Kent region.

If all goes according to plan, the creation could launch in time for the 2019 elections, therefore the merged council could be in force before the golfers arrive in the county in three years.

The 149th Open will be played from July 12-19, 2020.

LAST FOUR TOURNAMENTS IN SANDWICH

2011 - Northern Irishman Darren Clarke held his nerve to finish five-under and clinch his first ever Open title on the Kent course six years ago, despite the best efforts of American giants Phil Mickelson and Dustin Johnson.

2003 - American rookie Ben Curtis came out on top in the 132nd Open Championship, winning in his first ever major appearance by one stroke, after shooting a 69 to end on one-under, beating Thomas Bjorn who self-destructed on the closing holes.

1993 - Australian Greg Norman finished 13-under to claim the title in one of the most famous tournaments in history, where both he and Ernie Els broke 70 in all four rounds of an Open - a feat that had never been achieved before the 1993 battle.

1985 - The once-hapless Scot, Sandy Lyle, defied the odds 32 years ago to take his first and only Open championship at the Kent venue, with a score of two-over-par, one stroke ahead of runner-up Payne Stewart.

FORE: Golf fans watch the big names tee off in 2011 at St George's

Remembering our Ynez, 45, and a life full of fun, love and friends

On Wednesday morning, one of the founders of Kent on Sunday, and one of the most popular local newspaper figures in the county, lost their brave fight against cancer just four months after marriage

TRIBUTES have been paid to one of the founders of Kent on Sunday, Ynez Button, who died this week. She was just 45.

A key part of the team which established this newspaper in 2002, she had only got married in October - changing her name from Ynez Coton to Button.

But just weeks after starting life with her beloved husband Mark, 50, she was diagnosed with cancer. She had spent the last few weeks at the Pilgrims Hospice in Canterbury.

Warm, friendly and always so full of life, her passing has left family, friends and colleagues - past and present - stunned.

Mr Button, who is taking part in a charity 50-mile bike ride to raise funds for the hospice (full details of how to donate at the end of this article) said this week: "On Wednesday we lost beautiful Ynez which has left us all heartbroken.

"She was the most beautiful, special, caring, funny and amazing woman and I was so very very lucky to have her as my wife albeit for such a short time. I will cherish every moment I was with her.

"Her last five weeks were spent at the Pilgrims Hospice in Canterbury where she was treated with kindness and dignity by everyone."

For many readers and advertisers of Kent on Sunday over the years, she will be remembered for her relentless enthusiasm and for living and breathing the title during more than 14 years with the company.

Ynez was a passionate advocate of local media who during her career spent time at all of Kent's major newspaper groups - starting life at Adscene before it was taken over by Trinity Mirror and became Kent Regional Newspapers (KRN) (and is now Local World). After a long period with Kent on Sunday, she left in September 2016 and had a brief spell with the KM Group before her illness took hold.

At KRN she worked on the launch of such titles as the Canterbury Times and then the Isle of Thanet Gazette. It was while there she worked under managing director Paul Stannard.

Mr Stannard would go on to form his own company and launch Kent on Sunday in 2002 - at the time pioneering the platform of a heavyweight, editorially-driven newspaper which was free to pick-up; a model since widely adopted across the industry.

"She was senior commercial manager at KRN and I head-hunted her to be on that launch team," Mr Stannard explained this week.

"It was her strength of character, her determination, her love of publishing and media - she lived and breathed local media - that made me know she was the right person for the job. She was employee number one and would remind me of that daily.

FAREWELL: Ynez was admired and respected throughout her career and adored by her family and friends

"Even when I went to visit her just a couple of weeks ago she was asking for copies of all the local papers while she was at the hospice; showing me products and asking for my opinion. I know there was an element of taking her mind off what she was going through, but that was her world.

"Kent on Sunday was like her child, it was her baby. I know she found it really hard when they let her go.

"You talk to lots of people in the media who have fallen out of love with it, but she certainly hadn't. KoS wouldn't have changed the face of local media and won all those awards, and affected the industry with the free newspaper model, without people like Ynez.

"She was strong, fiery, passionate and honest. And she really cared about helping local businesses through the power of local media. A lot of local people and local businesses saw that in her and that reflected in a lot of KoS' success.

"Up until recently, her passion had always been work, but then she met Mark and you could see that she was looking forward to this new partnership in which she was clearly absolutely delighted. And now that has been denied both of them. She will be sadly missed."

Ian Patel was another of the founding team of KoS, serving as editorial director for many years, departing in 2012.

He told us this week: "Ynez was always proud of being the first KoS employee and she was a first class colleague - professional, loyal, hard working and with an extensive collection of high-heeled shoes and a steely determination to succeed in everything she did.

"She was kind and fun to work with, and her great sense of humour helped us through some hard and long work days.

"But I shall always remember her most fondly as a great friend to me. For the last few years of my time at KoS, Ynez and I would often be the last ones at work and we would talk through the stresses of the day and gee each other up before heading home in better spirits.

"She was always a source of strength and support during the sort of tough times when you really find out who your friends are.

"It was typical of Ynez that when Paul Stannard and I visited her in the hospice earlier this month she wasn't too interested in talking about her pain and illness, but wanted to have a laugh and joke and remember the ups and downs we had been through.

"The love she shared for a few short years with her wonderful husband Mark was obvious for all to see. And I'm sure all Ynez's friends will take comfort from knowing that Mark and their marriage last year made her more happy than I have ever seen her.

"All our thoughts are with Mark who was always by Ynez's side these past few months. He was without doubt the very best thing that ever happened to her, and I hope that knowledge provides him with some light at this dark time."

Her closest friend was Lyndsay Hopper and the pair not only became best pals, but also neighbours. Along with Mark, it was Lyndsay, her partner Alan and their two young children, which Ynez would so often speak about so proudly - they were very much her extended family.

"A day didn't go by without us seeing or speaking to each other or meeting at our adjoining fence for a quick chat or to hand something over - mainly me borrowing something I had run out of," Lyndsay Hopper told us this week.

"Ynez was an amazing and loyal best friend to me who never failed to brighten my day and would make me laugh instantly, at times over the most stupidest of things.

"She was so kind, funny, thoughtful, generous and brave; during the last two months of her life she became the bravest person I knew.

"My children adore their 'Aunty Nezzy' and I know she adored them, she treated them as if they were her own, full of love and laughter for both of them - and always with bags of treats.

"The day Ynez asked myself and my daughter Maisie to be her maid of honour and flower girl at her wedding was a proud moment for me and I was even prouder on the day. It really was an honour and I will cherish that moment forever.

"I can't comprehend that I have now lost my beautiful Ynez and don't think I ever will. She was taken far too soon and we had so much more to do and enjoy. Life will never be the same for me now that she has gone and my heart aches at the very thought of it.

"Such a special person to me and my family, a privilege to call her my best friend - I love you Nez and miss you so very very much."

Ynez passed away in the arms of her husband, best friend and sister Sam on Wednesday morning at the hospice in Canterbury.

Her death came just weeks after that of another long-serving Kent on Sunday colleague - Barbara Coker - who passed away in January.

■ **Ynez's husband Mark Button will be taking part in the Pilgrims Hospices Cycle Challenge on April 30 to raise funds in Ynez's honour. Funds are being raised through the JustGiving website. To donate, visit www.justgiving.com/marky-button.**

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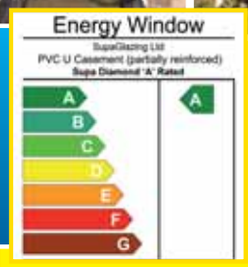

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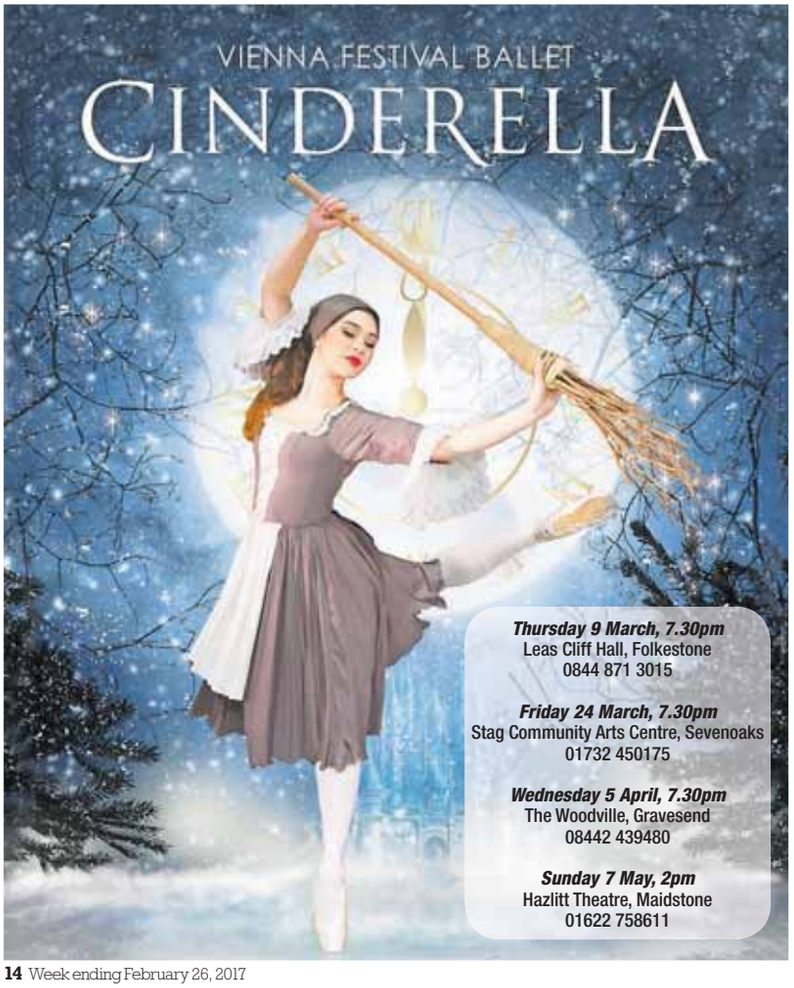

Cash injection will not solve prison crisis, says ex-warden

Last weekend the government confirmed there would be a £5,000 raise in the salary of many new recruits to the prison service amid fears of too few entering the profession. But one former Kent guard says it's too little and too late.

By Adele Couchman
adele.couchman@archant.co.uk

A FORMER prison officer has condemned a new package from the government which will increase the pay of thousands of prison workers, saying the announcement is "smoke and mirrors" as it will not benefit all staff.

Justice secretary Elizabeth Truss announced last Sunday staff at 31 prisons across London and the south east will be receiving an immediate pay increase of up to £5,000.

Among the 31 prisons set to benefit are Cookham Wood at Rochester, the Sheppey jails of Elmley, Standford Hill and Swaleside, the Medway Secure Training Centre, and Belmarsh in Thamesmead.

The only two Kent prisons not to get a share of new £12m package are HMP Maidstone and East Sutton Park Prison in Maidstone, which the Ministry of Justice say have not been selected because they do not face the same recruitment issues.

New recruits will receive higher starting salaries of up to £29,500 - a rise of £5,000 on the current level.

But former HMP Swaleside worker and the Prison Officers' Association representative for Kent, Dave Todd, said the increase will only benefit one prison officer working at HMP Standford Hill.

"It's a really difficult issue, as we welcome any payout," says Mr Todd who spent 25 years at Swaleside before leaving last month, "but really the announcement is just smoke and mirrors as a lot of experienced staff are not benefitting from the deal.

"I'm on £29,000 and haven't had a pay rise in the past ten years, when I should be on £37,000 if my wages kept up with inflation.

"Officers come to work and experience worrying levels of violence and self-harm, when some of them can get more money working in Tesco.

"I was in the armed forces and feel less comfortable walking around prisons than I did walking the streets of Northern Ireland."

The pay increases - worth between £3,000 and £5,000 - will apply to 'band three' staff, who make up the majority of front-line officers.

But according to Mr Todd, many existing officers will not benefit from the package as the pay rise does not apply to officers on older contracts like himself.

"The officers who will benefit are only new officers and fair and sustainable officers, not older closed grade officers.

"On paper, it says prison officers will benefit from an uplift of £24,000 to £27,000.

"But prison officers are already in receipt of that through a retention scheme that is due to end in April, so the government is promoting this as pay rise when really it is just an equilibrium."

Mr Todd also said that the new scheme will fail to address the issue of rioting in prisons, which he partly ascribes to overcrowding and low staff numbers.

Speaking of the riot in HMP Swaleside last December which saw 60 inmates take control of part of the prison, he added: "The riot started around Christmas time where prisoners were brewing their own alcohol and having parties, and the inmates found themselves being searched.

"The prisoners reacted to that, and the low numbers in staff gave them the confidence to start behaving like they did.

"Trying to recruit on mass through the gates is not the answer, as once they get inside they understand the complexities of the job.

"You need to be a certain type of person to become a prison officer - not everyone can do it.

"It's really important we hold on to our existing staff, as public sector workers can easily find other jobs.

"But with prisons officers seeing a nearly 40 per cent increase in staff assaults, jails simply aren't a nice place to work."

The £12m funding increase comes as ministers attempt to improve recruitment and retention of staff amid surging levels of violence behind bars in England and Wales.

In November, a government white paper said an extra 2,500 prison officers would be in place by the end of 2018.

The rise includes an extra 400 officers recruited by March this year. The Ministry of Justice said it was "on track" to meet that target, with 389 job offers already made to new recruits.

"I want frontline staff to know that their work, experience and loyal service is valued," explained Ms Truss.

"We also want to attract the best new tal-

STAFFING: Prisons in Kent, including Stanford Hill, right, have experienced problems put down to too few staff being on duty

ent into the service, ensuring we recruit and retain the leaders of the future.

"These hard-working, dedicated staff are key to delivering our ambitious reform agenda, and it is right that we offer them greater support as we move ever closer to transforming prisons into places of safety and reform."

Dwindling staffing levels have been highlighted as assaults, self-harm and suicides all soared to record levels, while a spate of major disturbances has erupted in jails.

On Thursday official figures revealed the number of personnel in key operational roles in public sector prisons in England and Wales fell by more than 300 to 17,888 last year.

The leaving rate - the percentage of staff with a permanent contract of employment who left for reasons other than voluntary early departure schemes and redundancy - has almost doubled since 2012/13.

As well as the announcement on pay, the Ministry of Justice said thousands of new learning and development opportunities will be made available to staff nationwide.

They will also be given specialist training in mental health and self-harm prevention.

Meanwhile, Tunbridge Wells Borough Council says it is continuing to push the Ministry of Justice on its plans for what was once the Blantyre House open jail in Goudhurst.

It closed in January 2015 for what, at the time, were described as temporary refurbishments. But inmates have not returned to the facility ever since.

A MoJ spokesperson said: "Blantyre House is currently being used as a prison training facility, and at the moment there are no plans to change this. We plan to keep Tunbridge Wells council update if any changes or updates arise."

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Prison accepts it 'failed' inmate found dead in cell

The family of Levi Smith, 41, have criticised the actions of HMP Elmley after an inquest into the Goudhurst father's death concluded this week in Maidstone

TRAGIC: Levi Smith.

A KENT prison "failed" a Goudhurst dad whose body was found hanged in a cell, his family have claimed.

The body of Levi Smith, 41, of John Stacey Heights, was discovered on November 12, 2014 in a cell at HMP Elmley on Sheppey.

At the end of a 14-day inquest at the Archbishop's Palace in Maidstone, attended throughout by the deceased's family, a jury returned a detailed narrative conclusion, confirming the failure of a governor and his staff to segregate a vulnerable prisoner under rule 45 of the prison rules possibly contributed to Mr Smith's death.

The jury concluded the death was 'accidental' in that Mr Smith's deliberate act was a "cry for help" which resulted in an unintended outcome.

An admitted failure by the night operational support grade staff member (OSG) to conduct a required hourly check shortly before 5.30am coincided with what appeared to be Mr Smith's last movements.

By Tom Pyman
tom.pyman@archant.co.uk

The jury concluded that the prisoner died between 5.35am and 5.45am but were not asked to consider whether the missed check contributed to the death.

From October 22, 2014, after being moved to a different house block within the prison, Mr Smith became very concerned about death threats from other prisoners and suffered a series of panic attacks, some of which resulted in outside hospital treatment.

Mr Smith then made numerous attempts to draw the prison's attention to the risk he faced and committed "trivial" offences to engineer his move to the segregation unit out of harm's way.

Both national prison policies and local policies in force at HMP Elmley recognised the behaviour displayed by Mr Smith was characteristic of someone at risk of harm from other prisoners.

Despite this, at no stage did the prison implement its own violence reduction strategy which would have enabled an investigation into the prisoner's reports of threats and a support plan to be put in place which ought to have included consideration of where he could be safely housed.

On November 11, 2014, Mr Smith was taken to the healthcare unit and said he would "string himself up" if he was relocated to the house block the next day.

An ACCT (Action, Care, Communication and Teamwork) document was opened, noting the risk of suicide and making provision for hourly checks on Mr Smith overnight.

He was discovered suspended in his cell shortly after 6.45 am.

Mr Smith's oldest sister Racheal Smith said: "We believe the prison failed Levi, they failed to look after him as they should have done."

His daughter, Rachel, added, in tribute: "We miss him more than words can say."

His father, Levi Smith Snr, added: "Wherever I went, my son went with me, he was like my shadow, when Levi went a part of me went with him."

The prisoner's family was represented at the inquest by Sean Horstead of Garden Court Chambers, instructed by Beth Handley of Hickman and Rose solicitors, who described the case as "yet another unnecessary tragedy".

Bosses at the jail told us recommendations made after an investigation by the Prisons & Probation Ombudsman had been accepted, and action taken, including improvements to night resources and the ACCT procedure.

A Ministry of Justice spokesperson added this week, at the conclusion of the inquest: "This is a tragic case and our thoughts are with Levi Smith's family and friends.

"The safety and welfare of people within our custody is our top priority and our policy is under constant review, but we recognise that more could have been done to support Mr Smith.

"HMP Elmley have already put in place a number of measures to better support the safety of offenders in custody and we will now carefully consider the findings of the inquest."

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BESPOKE KITCHENS

Medway council tax on the rise as chiefs rubber-stamp 5% hike

The local authority's slice of the bill is set to rise by an average of more than £60, but while Labour figures slam the move, Conservative bosses point out tax is still cheaper than anywhere else in Kent

By Tom Pyman
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PEOPLE in Medway are facing a significant increase on their bills from April as the local authority approved an increase to its slice of council tax by almost five per cent at a meeting on Thursday night.

For a unitary authority like Medway - completely independent from Kent County Council - the revenue is split between the authority itself, Kent Police, the fire service and parish councils.

The rise rubber-stamped by council chiefs comprises of the maximum general increase of 1.99 per cent with the rest being spent on combating the adult social care crisis - adding a total of some £293m to the authority's coffers.

In a bid to ease pressure, the government's communities secretary, Sajid Javid, announced before Christmas that town halls could increase the 'social care precept' on council tax bills from two per cent to three per cent, but not all have taken up that option, including at KCC where bosses earlier this month gave the green light to a 3.99 per cent rise.

For Medway residents in an average band D property, the authority's slice of the council tax bill will rise from £1,234.89 to £1,296.56 - an increase of just over £60.

Kent's police and crime commissioner Matthew Scott has already agreed an average £5 increase on the force's section of the bill.

After all the precepts have been taken into account, residents in band D properties in Medway are likely to experience a rise of around £70.

However, chiefs are quick to point out that residents will continue to pay the lowest council tax in Kent even after the increase.

The rise, they say, is necessary in the face of unprecedented cuts in funding that will see the authority lose almost £9.5m in grant support from central government compared to 2016/17 – a 33.3 per cent drop.

Conservative council leader Alan Jarrett said: "Back in September when we were looking at our mid term financial plan we were faced with an £11.8m budget gap.

"Over the past five months we've worked hard to plug that mammoth void by prioritising the services that are most important for residents and being more creative in how we can save money.

"It's been difficult but we did it and while some of our budget balancing decisions may not always be popular, they are made with the ideals of local people at the centre of them.

"The 1.99 per cent rise in council tax and additional social care precept is unavoidable as we must maintain vital day to day services.

"Looking to the future, the budget setting process isn't going to get any easier and the grant from central government will continue to decrease.

"So, we need residents to understand the budget constraints the council faces and together we'll maintain levels of services that people need.

STEEP: Medway Council has been criticised for imposing the maximum rise of five per cent, or £60 a year

"Our transformation programme is going to become increasingly crucial in the coming years as we experience further reductions in funding, and we do recognise that as a local authority, we have a duty to adjust and change how we work in order to combat funding issues."

Leader of the opposition Labour group on the council, Vince Maple, told us: "I'm very disappointed for the people of Medway who are going to be paying more for less.

"We've been saying that Medway has the joint-highest council tax increase in the country and while people understand and even have some sympathy with the council which is having its budget slashed, people are finding it very tough."

Opposition Labour leader on KCC, Gordon Cowan, suggested his authority perhaps should have threatened a referendum to propose an increase beyond the maximum amount in order to win an alleged "sweetheart deal" from central government.

The comments came after Surrey County Council threatened a massive 15 per cent hike, but backtracked weeks later as Jeremy Corbyn revealed text messages from the nearby authority's leader which suggested an agreement had been struck with government.

It is claimed the Surrey leader intended to send the messages to somebody called Nick in the Department for Communities and Local Government but they were instead sent to "the wrong Nick" - a Labour council leader.

Both Surrey County Council and the government have since denied any agreement was made.

Cllr Maple said: "It's clear Alan Jarrett doesn't have the number for Nick, otherwise he could have sorted a sweetheart deal.

"He is clearly not a sweetheart of Theresa May."

LABOUR LAUNCHES MANIFESTO AHEAD OF KCC ELECTIONS AS PRESSURE GROWS ON JEREMY CORBYN

PRESSURE continues to mount on Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn after the party lost a parliamentary seat in a by-election as Kent councillors this week launched their own manifesto.

Led by Gordon Cowan, the Labour group on KCC is looking to make up serious ground in May's county council elections, having fallen behind Ukip as the main party of opposition last time out in 2013.

Despite beating Ukip leader Paul Nuttall in Stoke, on a general national level, the party's stock has hardly been lower, with the loss of the Copeland seat in Cumbria to the Conservatives arguably further proof of growing discontent towards the controversial Mr Corbyn.

County councillor Roger Truelove admits the party's national struggles will almost certainly be considered when people take to the polls in Kent later this spring.

He told KoS: ''I'm afraid it reflects where we are in the opinion polls; these are seats we would not expect to be struggling to hold.

''These results will not be decisive [in Kent] but they will have an impact.

''It's always a task, even at the best of times, because for vast swathes of Kent voting for Labour is something that people just don't do - we have to be realistic and we'll probably target coastal areas.

''Of course we are campaigning to win, even though we never have, but Kent is suffering from a lack of opposition, so we're hoping to have a good representation come May.''

While Medway is a unitary authority independent from KCC, opposition leader Vince Maple says councillors across the district will be helping their colleagues campaign around the county over the coming months.

''National polling shows we are not in a good place,'' he told KoS.

''I think there was confusion about Labour's position on nuclear energy for what is essentially the Sellafield [nuclear fuel reprocessing and nuclear decommissioning site] constituency.

''We want to see a mixed economy and perhaps those messages didn't get through to enough residents.

''It's right to recognise the Labour vote has been declining since 1997 and in Copeland our majority has gone down.

''There is a specific issue as to Jeremy's position on nuclear energy which would not have come up on the doorsteps of Kent and Medway, but was front and centre in Copeland.

''Under Gordon's leadership we have seen the group go from strength to strength and I'm hopeful of a positive result but who knows what's going to happen, we are in unique political times.''

Asked by reporters if he would quit as leader this week, Mr Corbyn replied: ''I was elected to lead this party, to oppose austerity and oppose the redistribution of wealth in the wrong direction, which is what this government is doing.

''We will continue our campaigning work on the NHS, on social care, on housing.''

Tributes to FA Trophy hero following shock sudden death

Fans, family and friends have been in mourning this week for one of Kent's top non-league football stars who once led Ebbsfleet to glory at Wembley Stadium

By Luke May
luke.may@archant.co.uk

TRIBUTES have been paid this week to the captain of Ebbsfleet United's FA Trophy winning team who died suddenly last weekend.

Paul McCarthy is thought to have suffered a heart attack on Sunday. He was just 45.

The father-of-four captained Ebbsfleet United FC during their famous FA Trophy-winning season in 2008.

On a hot sunny day at Wembley Stadium, Mr McCarthy led his team out against Torquay United and to a 1-0 win in front of 40,000 fans - the one and only time the club has lifted the trophy.

The ex-Republic of Ireland under-21 international had fired the Fleet into the final after scoring in the semi-final against Aldershot Town.

He then worked as a coach at the club - alongside boss and friend Liam Daish - helping to guide the team back into the Conference - non-league football's highest level - in 2011.

Speaking this week to KoS, Mr Daish, said: "Macca just wanted to work as hard as he could, I never had to worry about the dressing room while he was there.

"The promotion and the trophies, they looked after themselves, my memories are the tough days.

"I remember times on the road back from those away days where maybe we didn't get a good result.

"We would sit at the front of the bus and just talk about football and have a laugh. I got to really know him, he was reliable and a solid man, there was no agenda to him.

"I hadn't seen Paul for over 18 months, but when we met it would always just click back to where we left off, I'm gutted that I'll have to wait so long to see him again.

"It just isn't right. When I first heard I was in shock but now its sinking in. It's just tragic for his wife Kath and their girls."

Mr McCarthy played 162 times for Ebbsfleet after being signed by former boss Andy Ford back in 2004 from Essex side Hornchurch.

Born in Cork, he started his football career signing for south coast side Brighton in 1989, going on to make 181 league and cup appearances for the Seagulls. It was between 1989 and 1994 he made 10 apperances for the Republic of Ireland's U21 side, including playing in the 1991 FIFA World Youth Championship in Portugal - although Ireland failed to progress from the group stages. Despite an opening tournament defeat to the hosts, Mr McCarthy scored in the 1-1 draw with Korea and featured again in the 2-2 draw with Argentina.

He then moved, in 1996, to Second Division side Wycombe Wanderers, playing for them 212 times over a seven-year spell.

It was at Wycombe in 2001 he scored, alongside Roy Essandoh, in the team's 2-1 giant-killing win over Premier League Leicester City. Wanderers' victory, under former Wimbledon cup winner Lawrie Sanchez, secured them a place in the semi-final of the tournament.

There Mr McCarthy was in the starting line-up at Villa Park against a Liverpool side featuring the likes of Michael Owen, Robbie Fowler and Steven Gerrard. After keeping the scores level for 78 minutes, Wanderers finally cracked and lost out on the chance of reaching a Wembley showpiece final, going down 2-1.

In 2003, he joined Oxford on loan and then made the move permanent at the end of the season, before moving to Hornchurch the following year on a free transfer. When the Essex side ran into financial trouble and eventually folded, he joined the Fleet.

After a six-year spell in the team, he went on to become assistant coach with Liam Daish and the pair masterminded the Fleet's return to the Conference.

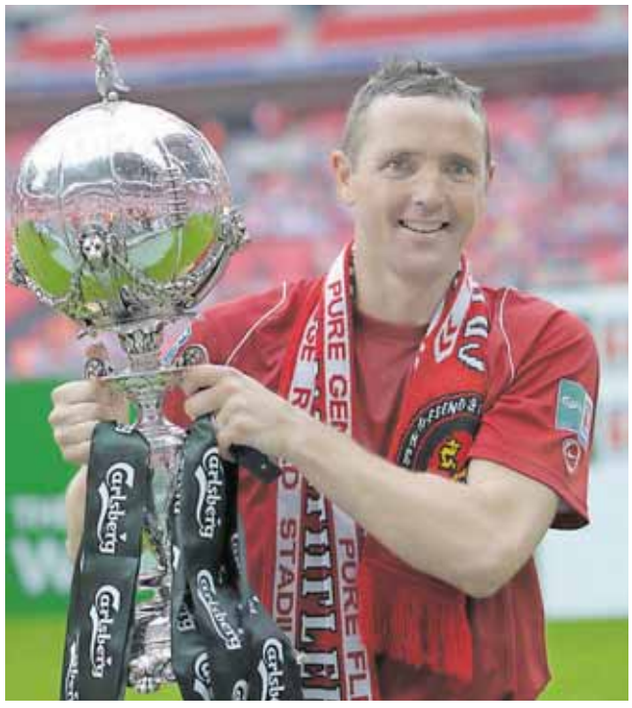
He left the club, alongside Mr Daish, in 2013, after the club ushered in new owners and enforced a change in management.

Mr McCarthy went on to play for Crowborough AFC, just over the East Sussex border, near Tunbridge Wells.

A statement from Ebbsfleet United issued in the light of his passing read: "Quite apart from going down in Fleet history as the man who lifted the FA Trophy at Wembley in 2008, Paul was a well-loved and popular figure throughout his long association with the club.

"All of us at the club, many of whom will remember working alongside Paul in his time here, are deeply saddened by the news and extend our most heartfelt sympathies to his family at this time as we're sure do all the

GLORY: Paul McCarthy, centre, lifts the FA Trophy with team-mates at Wembley Stadium. All pictures: ADY KERRY



CUP: Delight on the hallowed turf after the 1-0 win over Torquay United

club's fans who remember him warmly as a person and a great servant at Stonebridge Road."

Certainly that FA Trophy final against Torquay on May 8, 2008, will live long in the memory of fans and be permantly etched in the club's history books.

Just a season after the club changed its name from its more traditional Gravesend & Northfleet, the side made it through to the final of a tournament dedicated to senior non-league teams.

And it was a clear sign of the club's growing ambition and resolve that Liam Daish's men not only took to the hallowed turf of Wembley but failed to be over-awed by it either.

The first half saw Torquay apply pressure and as Fleet tried to settle, Paul McCarthy was booked just 11 minutes in for a clumsy tackle.

But they rode the storm and as the final minutes of the first half elapsed they won a penalty - only for Chris McPhee to see his shot saved by the Torquay goalkeeper.

However, just four minutes later, and on the stroke of half-time, McPhee got his chance for redemption and tucked the ball away from close range to put the Fleet in front.

It was a lead they clung to doggedly through the second half before finally emerging triumphant.

And it was Mr McCarthy who lifted the trophy to the delight of thousands of ecstatic fans.

World of Geek proves it has plenty of life left

REVIEW: We take a stroll down the seaside to Dreamland in Margate to check out video game celebrations at Geek 2017

By Chris Britcher
chris.britcher@archant.co.uk

WHEN you consider the sheer size and scale of the video game industry - worth an eye-watering £4.2 billion in consumer spend in the UK in 2015 - it is perhaps not surprising that there are an increasing number of events set up to celebrate it.

What is perhaps more surprising is its growth in the least glamorous of surroundings. The stereotype of geeky kids in their bedrooms may not be the complete picture - and in truth it is only by expanding out to embrace adults too that the medium shifted from niche to the enormous - but it is in part an accurate description.

In today's increasingly online world children and teenagers no longer spend their evenings jumping on push bikes and riding to each others houses to chat, but instead put on their headphones and microphones, and plug into a game which they play against one another online, while chatting to friends and others from around the world.

They don't even need to go to the shops to buy the games to play any more courtesy of super-fast broadband meaning only a little patience is required to download full games at the press of a button. Which, depending on your parenting point of view, is either the dream to ensure your child is safe and sound under your roof while still chatting to friends, or a sign of a world where face-to-face human interaction has been shifted into a world of faceless cyberspace.

For those who subscribe to the latter, Geek in Margate last weekend was perhaps the chance to remind youngsters of the fun of playing together, literally - plus the opportunity to get reacquainted with some games from years gone by they once enjoyed - many without the team-play charms of online connectivity.

The concept is relatively simple. Geek offered up a hall full of everything from early Nintendo, Sega and Commodore games all the way through to the latest generation of PC, Playstation 4 and XBox One consoles.

In addition, there's specialist zones for independent gamers, a chance for those who like to dress up as characters - so-called cosplay - to strut about, and sprinkled with break-out sessions on everything from art to board games.

Shifting from its traditional home of the Winter Gardens further along the coast, this year Dreamland opened its doors to the event and demonstrated a flexibility which could yet prove its ticket to salvation.

The space was well utilised - the Ballroom a well-lit room full of talks and workshops, the roller disco hall replaced with dodgem cars equipped with Mario Kart games in each to allow players to play Nintendo's timeless classic while perched within a vehicle similiar in size to that in the virtual race.

A quick stroll outside to the Hall By The Sea and there lay a darkened room a-glow with dozens upon dozens of monitors all dedicated to a particular game. All free to play once through the entrance gates.

In short, Dreamland comfortably worked better, created more space, and by the queues to get in on the Sunday morning demonstrated itself capable of pulling in crowds while providing sufficient space that at no stage did it feel so crowded accessing a machine was not going to be possible.

Geek had taken a year off last year - allowing, instead, another oh-so-similiar event, Play - to be the only event in town during 2016.

This time, Geek - which stands for

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FUN: Mario Kart arena, left, and youngsters engrossed above

HALL: Thousands flocked to the event over the weekend

Gaming Expo East Kent - comfortably reclaimed its crown.

From various incarnations of Street Fighters and FIFA to retro classics such as Goldeneye and Micro Machines, to countless terminals dedicated to the phenomenon that is Minecraft, there was something for parents to remember from their youth, and youngsters to demonstrate their expertise in from the modern day - while offering perhaps the most fun in terms of trying their hand at those from outside their comfort zone.

For many, the highlight was the opportunity to try out the latest range of virtual reality headsets - from HTC, Sony and the Oculus Rift. All were surprisingly impressive and lived up to the enormous hype which surrounded their launch last year.

Not to mention that until the price starts to fall - Sony's Playstation offering is the cheapest at around £350 a pop - then this sort of event is one of the few opportunities to get to grips with one. Just be warned, as you stand completely engrossed in climbing up a mountain with your headset on, friends while revel in the delight of filming you groping about for later amusement value.

Geek has been given a new lease of life at Dreamland. The rides may not have been open - it's closed for the winter - but the venue, bathed in a little sunshine, proved an excellent alternative to the rather staid surroundings of the Winter Gardens. Which is no disrespect to that venue, merely that an event designed to highlight a vibrant, young, often brash, medium, does deserve something rather more fitting.

What's more, the fact Dreamland's entrance is down a street lined with arcades full of bright flashing lights and the lure of the latest arcade consoles - the birthplace of most of home gaming's biggest names - makes it feel it is more at home.

Judging by the crowds, Geek's 2017 incarnation proved a success. For its part in the cultural blend Margate offers in this modern era, we can all but hope it continues for years to come.

War hero who turned to music

By Chris Britcher
chris.britcher@archant.co.uk

A SPECIAL service of remembrance has been held for one of the last survivors of the Second World War's Normandy Landings, following his death last month.

Ian Hammerton passed away at his home on January 11, aged 95. Last week his funeral and a service took place at the Eltham and St Barnabas Church, near Dartford.

Born in Hither Green in 1921 and brought up in Dartford, Mr Hammerton lived a full and active life in education and community work, after serving with distinction during the war.

His military service began with the Army Officers Training Corps while still at Dartford Grammar School. He was called up the day before hostilities began and trained at the Royal Military Academy at Sandhurst. He joined the new Royal Armoured Corps and was appointed to the 22nd Dragoons. This regiment was part of the 79th Armoured Division, which played an important role in the Normandy Landings in June 1944.

He was trained to command a troop of Sherman Crab flail tanks designed to clear minefields. As lieutenant, he was commander of a group of such tanks landing in the first wave on the morning of June 6 1944, on Juno beach at Bernières-sur-Mer alongside Canadian infantry.

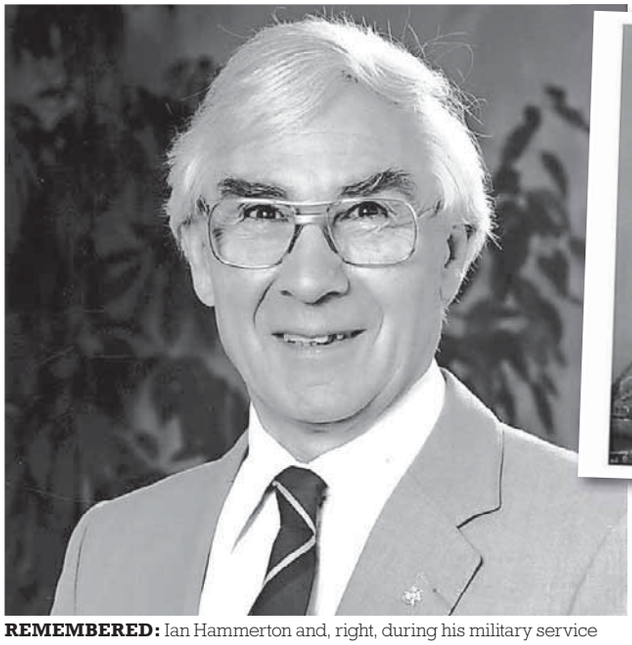
His troop was involved in the major battles for Caen and Le Havre, the advance up through Belgium and the Netherlands, the Rhine Crossing at Nijmegen, the Reichswald offensive and the final allied push up towards Bremen and Hamburg. He was awarded the French Croix de Guerre with silver star for his bravery and leadership in the liberation of Europe.

At the end of hostilities in Europe, Mr Hammerton was just 23. He was promoted to captain and continued working as a staff captain in Celle, near Hannover, helping to gather material for the war crimes trials in Lüneburg and Celle which dealt, amongst other things, with the atrocities committed at the nearby concentration camp at Bergen-Belsen. He said reading the survivors' accounts was the most harrowing experience of his life.

While in Germany he helped to organise and run youth clubs to encourage young Germans to regain a sense of purpose after their country's defeat – something he felt very strongly about. He was finally released from service in July 1946.

In 1991, he published a book about his wartime experiences, Achting! Minen! The Making of a Flail Tank Commander, which brought him to the attention of many war documentary makers and journalists with whom he shared his experiences for many programmes and articles.

He was secretary of the 22nd Dragoons old comrades association until a few years ago and participated in many events organised by the Normandy Veterans Association in France, England and Holland. In 2015 he was made a Chevalier of the Légion d'Honneur by the French government for his role in the Liberation of France and subsequent reconciliation efforts.



REMEMBERED: Ian Hammerton and, right, during his military service

Mr Hammerton's career after the war was in education, teaching music and other subjects at Hurstmere Secondary School for Boys in Sidcup. He played the flute and met his cellist wife Barbara through music and they both played in Dartford Symphony Orchestra for many years, later supporting through the patrons. For 20 years he conducted the Dartford Youth Orchestra for Kent Music School as well as the school orchestra and choir.

After retiring, as well as supporting the Dartford Arts Council and Environment Week committee, he became a voluntary warden for the Woodland Trust, setting up a support group to help with fundraising and woodland management in Joydens Wood.

A keen photographer, he took slides to illustrate the woodland's importance and used them to write a book about it and give talks. This was recognised with an MBEt in 2002.

He is survived by his wife Barbara, their children Michael, Susan and Colin, three grandchildren and one great-grandchild, as well as his younger brother Roy.

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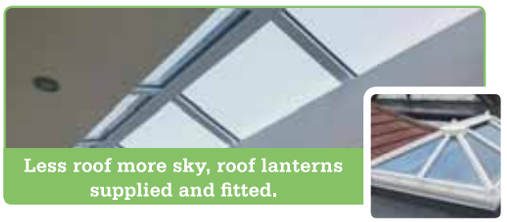

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Women Seeking

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LADY, 70, 5ft6, divorced, blonde hair, brown eyes, friendly, lives in the Kent area, likes walking, holidays, WLTM somebody for friendship in the local area. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 426193**

KATIE 35yrs, slender well educated brunette seeks no strings mutual pleasure with gent 40+ Must be discreet, married or single. ACA. **Tel: 0906 515 3002 Box 419673**

AMANDA, slim blonde, 50s seeks discreet gent for special times, mutually beneficial to us both. Call now. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 425327**

JANE, young 41, very broadminded seeks chap any age for discreet no strings fun, any age, no time wasters ACA. **Tel: No: 0906 515 3010 Box: 409715**

EILEEN mid 60s seeks gent 50s-60s for friendship, possibly much more. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 425341**

SOPHIA young 40yrs, married but bored, seeks discreet adult fun, any area, all calls answered. **Tel: 0906 515 3018 Box: 413399**

ANETTA, black cuddly lady seeks man who knows what a woman needs. I'm very friendly and have time for you. Please call or text me. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 425933**

EMILY, mature well educated lady, blonde and smart and broadminded seeks gent any age for no strings fun. ACA. **Tel: 0906 515 3022 Box 421375**

JANE, attractive and young looking 60 something lady, active, outgoing with interesting personality, hoping to meet a kind gent for occasional meetings. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 425931**

TAMIKA, mature black beauty, hourglass figure and open minded. Pls call if you are discreet, broad minded and nice. I can travel and accommodate. ACA. **Tel: 0906 515 3006 Box 422365**

GILLY, slim petite lady, affectionate and loving, solvent with own home, hoping to meet gent, must be kind, looks unimportant. ACA/text answered. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 425929**

CARLY, 34yrs, attractive and discreet military wife seeks no strings fun with respectable gent. **Tel: 0906 515 3038 Box 424419**

MERRY widow seeks lovely lonely gent for companionship. Please call, we can have a chat and see how we get on. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 425927**

ATTRACTIVE well educated lady, mid 30's, solvent, professional, seeks discreet broad minded gent. ACA. **Tel: 0906 515 3042 Box 425891**

LIVELY 53-year-old female, young in mind, wants discreet fun, loves gardening, dancing music etc and more. **Text only. Mailbox: 5763284**

OCTAVIA, black seductress, 53yrs, waiting to meet you. Pls text me today. **Text Only. Mailbox: 4090520**

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SAMANTHA, 35yrs, attractive brunette with own business, seeks adventurous gent for casual relationship. **Tel: 0906 515 3034 Box 425979**

JACKIE, 56yrs, attractive lady who is lots of fun seeks like-minded gent for nights in, days out and much much more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 424491**

CORRINE, genuine advertiser seeking adult fun, no time wasters pls. I will respond to all msgs. **Text Only. Mailbox: 4035196**

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SUE, 60s lady, calling all gents who seek a mature solvent stylish lady, I can wine and dine you, you will have a nice time, call or text me. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 424781**

PHILIPPA, feminine open minded lady seeking adult fun, genuine responses only pls, no time-wasters. **Text Only: Mailbox: 4030610**

JEAN, mature lady, genuine with many hobbies, slim, blonde and attractive. WLTM interesting gent with GSOH, must be cheerful, looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 424675**

SUE, genuine lady, own home, loves to spoil a man, give me a call or text. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 424673**

WANTED gent 50-76 for cosy nights in, good times, call or text me, you won't be sorry. I'm attractive and have lots to offer. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 425339**

LINDA, 48yrs attractive brunette seeks gent for laughter, wining dining. Age unimportant. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 425337**

LOVING lady, romantic and tactile seeks like-minded gent for special times, lets make each other feel special. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 425325**

ATTRACTIVE Caribbean lady 59yrs, very jolly and fun seeking gent any age who must love good times. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 425323**

SANDRA, smart, sophisticated lady, young looking 60s, genuine and kind, seeks gent with GSOH, looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 424671**

HELEN, mid 50s naughty lady seeks some fun times with gent any age. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 424493**

CAROL, mid 50s lady, young at heart, attractive and sexy (so I'm told)! Give me a call if you are a gent with GSOH. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 424783**

MARY, professional mature lady, loves life, very sociable and fun, seeks gent for good conversation and happy times. All calls and texts answered. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 424775**

BRUNETTE lady, 70, slim, sophisticated, size 10, kind of like Helen Mirren as a brunette, lives near Tunbridge Wells, WLTM a genuine, hopefully family oriented gentleman, for genuine friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 424877**

SARAH, mature feminine lady, kind caring but still has a sensual side, hoping to meet like minded, confident, non smoking gent with GSOH, looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 424777**

50YRS, old attractive lady. Sheila, caring honest, seeks discreet gent. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 422469**

Men Seeking

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LOCAL man, seeks lady for friendship possibly more, for romantic dates and good times together, hope to hear from you. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 426195**

HANDSOME male, mid 40s, dark hair, hazel eyes, wishes to meet appropriate female for fun, friendship and perhaps more, please get in touch if interested. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 422587**

MALE, 55, looking for no strings attached friendship, with a lady 60-70, any status. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 426133**

MALE, 6ft, brown hair and blue eyes, warm and understanding, likes dining out and cosy nights in, lots of fun, friendship and holidays. Looking for a lady over 48. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 426057**

CARING sociable, GS0H, slim, attractive, married gent, 67, feels discarded and lonely, seeks likewise lady 60+ for trips out, dining etc. **Text only. Mailbox: 5082918**

SIX foot guy, mature, looking for someone special to spend some quality time with. Please leave me a message I would love to hear from you! **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 420163**

CALLING all ladies 40+ who would like to be wined, dined and romanced by attractive gent, 54 years please call or text me. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 425943**

MALE, 70s, would like to meet slim lady 60 plus. **Text only. Mailbox: 4505135**

SUE, outgoing lady, enjoys life, likes meals, holidays, WLTM mature gentleman to share interests and spend quality time together. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 424669**

CLARE, 41, attractive, lovely eyes, nice figure, smoker, likes beach walks, socialising, occasional gigs, WLTM a nice gent, any age over 40, for wining and dining, to be my soul mate. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 424595**

NAUGHTY curvy 46yr old lady, outgoing and bubbly with a naughty side and lots of banter, WLTM chap 30+. If you are married even better. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 424543**

JULIE, 53yrs, tall slim dark haired lady, sociable and fun loving. New to the area so WLTM men friends for fun, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 424497**

ANGELA, 48yrs, seeks male companion for nights out, dining, maybe more. ACA or text me. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 424495**

JOHN, mid sixties widower, cultured and interesting, solvent with own home. WLTM lady 55+ for genuine companionship. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 425939**

GENUINE single gent, 55yrs, seeks friendship hopefully leading to true love with lady 35-55, looks unimportant. Please call or text me. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 425937**

SOLVENT gentleman, young 70s, loves life seeking a lady of any age to spoil and pamper, take on holidays, wine and dine. Genuine advertiser. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 425935**

PROFESSIONAL gentleman, 64, widowed, own house, loves holidays abroad, reading, eating out, eating in and shows, WLTM a lady of similar age to share interests and happy times together hopefully leading to lasting relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 425787**

HELLO, mature gentleman looking for a lady who is caring, likes holidays, karaoke, meals out, country walks and cinema. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 425401**

GUY, 50, 6ft tall, calm and kind, good company, seeking lovely lady for good times and fun and loving. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 425369**

BARRY, 50, 6ft 4ins, well built, divorced gent, looking to date calm and kind lovely lady. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 421195**

MARK 48, slim, fit, GSOH, looking for loyal partner for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 424679**

CHRIS, 49yrs honest gent seeks lady 45-55 for socialising, friendship, maybe leading to romance. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 425345**

PETER, sincere solvent gent 70s seeks lady to wine dine, foreign travel, all expenses paid. I would love a traveling companion. Genuine advertiser. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 425343**

MALCOLM, 60 something gent, own hair and teeth, GSOH, genuine and Kind WLTM sincere lady to wine and dine. Please call. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 425335**

PROFESSIONAL gent, 44yrs, tall, attractive and genuine. Seeks genuine feminine lady for genuine romance, ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 425333**

PIERS, 56yrs, romantic gent WLTM lady to wine, dine, spoil. I'm kind, caring, generous pls call me. Single mums welcome. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 425331**

GENUINE gentleman, family minded, kind, generous seeks lady 55-75 for wining, dining and wine and laughter. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 425329**

NICE looking 55 year old male WLTM sincere lady, any age, for friendship, outings, holidays abroad etc. Love the sun. **Text only. Mailbox: 4922399**

DENTAL practitioner, 44, 6ft, slim, athletic build, thick dark hair, blue eyes, loves sports, seeks slim feminine sporty lady. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 425087**

EDWARD, 77, looking for a companion South East area of Kent, for holidays, days out, social events, and lots more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 423039**

TALL, lively old boy, into red wine, garlic and Radio 3, seeks tactile lady for company and jolly jaunts. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 425021**

MALE, 58, wishes to meet attractive female, into music, live bands, cinema and some sports, for nights out socialising and maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 424979**

HI I'm Darren, down to earth guy, lives in Kent, likes Marbaia, looking for someone special to meet and have a laugh with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 424951**

GARETH handsome 40's pilot, strong tall build, seeks daytime discreet passion with lady 30-65. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 414421**

NICK, mature male, builder, tattoos, plenty of money, looking for discreet meets, no stings in the Kent area. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 424787**

MALE 50 seeks mature, home loving lady, 60 plus who enjoys cosy nights in. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 424683**

59YR old male, likes country walks, pub lunches, seeks lady for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 424685**

RETIRED, intelligent, Broadstairs widower, GSOH, medium height and build, seeks slim lady for friendship and companionship initially. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 424697**

MARTIN trustworthy, warm hearted, loving, reliable male, 45, 6ft, medium build, young at heart, GSOH, seeks female, 50-60 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 424681**

CARING 55yr old male, widower, 6ft 3ins, WLTM lady, 40-55 for fun and laughter, maybe happy ever after. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 424677**

COLIN, 56, 6ft, medium build, clean and tidy with a tidy beard, I'm after some TLC with no strings adult fun. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 422359**

ANDY, tall attractive male, looking for a naughty female, for fun with no strings attached. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 424295**

MALE, 52, quiet nature, likes coastal walks, cinema, reading, WLTM lady for friendship and maybe romance. East Kent area. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 424211**

RICHARD, 64, n/s, from Kent, medium build, clean shaven, likes classic cars, days out, meals out, boot fares, most things, would like to meet a lady for company and to share each others interests. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 424207**

MALE, 54, looking for discreet lady, 60-70, for adult fun and a special friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 421085**

LIVELY old boy, OHAC, near sea in Folkestone, into red wine, garlic and Radio 3, seeks lady companion/lover, 58-68 yo. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 422621**

Gay Seeking

Join our Gay online service ***FREE*** visit: ***localgaydate.co.uk***

MALE, 40s, seeking gym buddy to attend DW gym in the early evenings, similar age. Margate. **Text only. Mailbox: 5779191**

SIMON, 29yrs, gay curious, seeking older gent for new experiences, must be discreet as I live at home. **Text Only: Mailbox: 4196422**

GAY guy, friendly with a GSOH, likes sport and art, WLTM similar guy for a relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 425563**

Friends

FEMALE seeking genuine straight female for daytrips, out to meet socially for lunch/coffee. **Text only to Mailbox No:4748240**

SEEKING ladies for good company, socialising and a bit of fun, BBW local to Kent, get in touch and lets start having fun. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 413623**

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ROLE: He may not sing but his acting still dazzles. For the full interview with the star, see our website - www.kentnews.co.uk.

Jason Donovan is back once again for musical hit

Chris Britcher speaks to the star ahead of week of shows at the Marlowe Theatre

JASON Donovan turns 50 next year. Ponder that for a second. The fresh-faced boy from Neighbours who moved effortlessly from screen to pop stage and then musical theatre, is the big 5-0.

And while that will, inevitably, make plenty of us start to feel a little old (Kylie Minogue also hits that landmark in 2018), the good news is that Jason Donovan is still refreshingly close to how he used to look to give us all a sense that it's not that old really.

The former soap star and pop idol is perhaps never busier - boosted by the UK's endearing love affair with a man who remains a face and voice of so many's youth.

Just two months after rolling into Margate for one of his greatest hits shows, he's back in Kent this week for a role in the hit touring musical, Million Dollar Quartet. The former Broadway award-winner is touring the country after a West End run and pulling in punters left right and centre.

He portrays Sam Philips - complete with American accent - the legendary record producer who founded Sun Studios in Memphis and played a key role in the careers of Elvis Presley, Jerry Lee Lewis, Johnny Cash and Carl Perkins. The show is based around the real-life record session that united them all.

We speak during a run of shows in Dublin before it shifts lock, stock and barrel to Canterbury's Marlowe Theatre before then heading to Newcastle before back to Southend.

"I think it's fair to say the planning is a little odd," he quips.

"I wasn't aware of Sam Philips before getting this role, but he's a fascinating man – the father of rock n roll, he was breaking ground when rock n roll was seen as the devil's playground. Which is how pop music was and still is.

"I'm sure the mums and dads looking at Skepta on the Brit Awards would be horrified but the Beatles wearing long hair was like the anti-Christ, that's how it should be.

"Philips was the Paul McGuiness [U2 manager], the Brian Epstein, the Simon Cowell of his day in an era when you didn't really have crossover pop stars."

Perhaps surprisingly, there's almost zero singing from the man who once topped the charts with hits such as Too Many Broken Hearts, Any Dream Will Do and, of course, Especially For You, with the aforementioned Kylie.

"Acting is my spiritual home, so I feel comfortable with the role I have. It's a great story. This show, as a brand, may not be as recognisable as a Jersey Boys, a Les Mis or a Phantom, but when people see it, they think 'wow, it's fantastic."

Given that landmark age looming on the horizon, there's certainly no denying the 48-year-old's work ethic or diversity in his career which also includes hosting a regular show on radio station Heart and an ever-increasing CV of major musical roles. Most notable of which was as the lead character in Joseph and the Amazing Technical Colour Dreamcoat in its 1991 revival at the London Palladiium.

"Joseph was a perfect storm of music, musical, composer, performer, venue, plus a number one single and album – that doesn't happen any more."

Fortunately you can still get Jason Donovan.

Million Dollar Quartet is at the Marlowe Theatre, Canterbury from Monday to March 4. Visit marlowetheatre.com.

» Email us details of your event to:
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An extra 1,000 tickets are now on sale for inflatable Beast

By Adele Couchman

editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

AN EXTRA 1,000 tickets have been released for the world's largest inflatable obstacle course at Deals' Betteshanger Park after all its tickets sold out.

Known as The Beast, the giant bouncy castle for adults will be at the Betteshanger Park near Deal from May 26-29.

Due to overwhelming demand, five additional afternoon sessions on Friday, May 26 have been added for those who have yet to get their hands on tickets.

At 272 metres, it is a giant of a course featuring 32 obstacles, from inflatable walls, balls and rings.

Those trying their hand can either sign up to be part of a team or simply try it single-handed.

The course is designed for adults and children over 12. Children under 12 can take part, although they may need some assistance in the most difficult sections.

The Friday will be dedicated to corporate and fundraising teams. Saturday to Monday will be for general public, with added party nights on Friday and Saturday for those who want to have a night out with a difference.

Food and drink suppliers will also be in attendance to provide refreshment for those looking to take part - or simply watch.

The additional tickets for the Betteshanger Park dates went on sale at 9.30am on Thursday, February 23 and can be booked via www.betteshanger-park.co.uk/beast

The obstacle course is also coming to Tunbridge Wells' Groombridge Place for Extreme Festival on April 29 and 30.

Extreme Festival is a new festival for adventure seekers and adrenaline junkies. The festival is filled with some of the world's most extreme activities aimed at getting blood pumping.

At £18 a ticket - which includes entry to The Beast - the festival will host live music, food and beer tents.

The festival is also looking for volunteers to help out at events coming up and to help organise future events .

Tickets, and more information can on volunteering, can be found by visiting extremefestival.co.uk.

SOLD OUT: All of the original tickets that went on sale sold out - organisers have added five more sessions

Dahl's centenary musical

A MUSICAL adaptation of Fantastic Mr Fox, celebrating 100 years of Roald Dahl will be at Dartford's Orchard Theatre from February 28 to March 5.

For tickets visit orchardtheatre.co.uk

Flippin' crazy race day

PANCAKE DAY races will be held in Gravesend town centre on February 28.

Shops and businesses will come together as individuals or teams on Pancake Day in a bid to win the top prize.

Mayor of Gravesham, Greta Goatley will be adjudicating and handing out prizes.

Free lunchtime concerts

THE CURTAIN comes down on the spring series of lunchtime concerts at the University of Kent in Canterbury on March 29 with a trio of musicians exploring tango music.

The concerts are free entry.

Shirley's feel-good show

COMEDY Shirley Valentine is touring and stopping at Bromley's Churchill Theatre from March 2-4, Canterbury's Marlowe Theatre from May 16-20 and Tunbridge Wells' Assembly Hall from July 3-8.

Visit churchilltheatre.co.uk, marlowetheatre.com or assemblyhalltheatre.co.uk for tickets.

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My First Ballet: Cinderella

A REIMAGINED ballet version of Cinderella, created for children as young as three is coming to Dartford's Orchard Theatre from April 6-8.

For tickets visit orchardtheatre.co.uk

Nan's debut novel success

A GRANDMOTHER'S law research paid off when her debut novel, Out Of Court, charted number nine on Amazon's Crime Chart.

Clare Baldock from Maidstone spent weeks revising the legal system ahead of writing the crime thriller about barrister Olivia Bailey.

The book is available from amazon.co.uk.

Blue's Ryan hits EastEnd

BLUE SINGER Lee Ryan, who originates from Chatham, is to join the cast of EastEnders as Albert Square's latest bad boy.

The musician arrives as character 'Woody' Woodward in the spring.

Lulu's string of Kent dates

LULU will visit Margate's Winter Gardens on October 5, Tunbridge Wells' Assembly Hall on October 11, Bromley's Churchill Theatre on October 23, Dartford's Orchard Theatre on October 24, and Canterbury's Marlowe Theatre on November 6 on "biggest tour to date".

For tickets visit ticketmaster.co.uk.

Comedy Out Of Order updated and returning

By Emily King
emily.king@archant.co.uk

STELLAR comedy, Out of Order, is making its way to Dartford, and Bromley, with a star-studded cast including Shaun Williamson (EastEnders, Extras); Sue Holderness (Only Fools & Horses, Green Green Grass); Andrew Hall (Butterflies, Coronation Street); Susie Amy (Footballers' Wives); and James Holmes (Miranda).

Writer and director Ray Cooney is celebrating 70 years in the business this year and decided to bring the comedy back with an updated version.

The story begins when a government junior minister plans to spend the evening with one of the opposition's typists in the Westminster Hotel, and things go disastrously wrong – beginning with the discovery of a body trapped in the hotel's only unreliable sash window. Desperately trying to get out of an extremely sticky situation, things quickly go from bad to worse.

Speaking to KoS, Mr Cooney, said: "I do have a very soft spot for Out Of Order. All the plays have got lots of funny business in them, but Out Of Order has even more than usual. I won't go into too many details about the story but there is a dead body in it, there's a window that keeps crashing down and as usual there are three doors that keep opening and closing."

The production of the new show has changed slightly so that it's in keeping with the times.

Mr Cooner explains: "It's still set in a hotel, but it's changed a bit because it's now an old-fashioned hotel that's been modernised in Westminster.

"And we've brought it bang up to date so it's Jeremy Corbyn now and Theresa May. Not that they appear in it, but they're referred to."

The writer also hopes audiences have "a wonderful evening" watching Out Of Order.

The show is coming to Dartford's Orchard Theatre from June 5 to 10, and Bromley's Churchill Theatre from June 20 to 24.

For tickets visit orchardtheatre.co.uk, and churchilltheatre.co.uk

CELEBRATION: 2017 is Ray Cooney's 70th year in the industry

FAMOUS: Sue Holderness and Shaun Williamson star in the show

Welcome to RDF Luxury Cars

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RDF Luxury Cars are a family business and have been in the hospitality industry for over 35 years in the Thanet area; we will take care of you from the start of your journey until the end, in comfort, style and luxury with little touches such as ribbons and drinks to make it all that much more special. If you would like to see the cars this can be arranged. All our drivers will ring ahead and be smartly dressed. Prices include ribbons, drinks & pick up from home to venue.

This luxury sports car really does have the wow factor with its silver body chrome lines, black soft top, this car is the one to be seen in.

Rolls Royce Phantom is one of the most desirable convertibles in the world. This fabulous car has a cream leather interior, with its beautiful metallic body work with a brush steel bonnet and contrasting blue soft top, this car is the ultimate in luxury.

This is the most luxurious 4 door saloon with its blue paintwork, cream leather seats and classic lines, this is a statement of luxury.

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'It was compared to One Direction splitting up'

Saturday Kitchen's James Martin speaks about what it was like leaving, and his new show on ITV

SATURDAY MORNINGS couldn't be more different for James Martin, now he's no longer getting up at 5am to host Saturday Kitchen.

"For 10 years, I was waking up thinking about scripts and who's on the show; now I get up in the morning and I just want to go for a pee," the bubbly Yorkshireman confides with a chuckle.

When it was announced last year that Martin, 44, was stepping down as the face of the popular BBC cookery show, there was a national outpouring of emotion, which took him by surprise.

"When it was compared to One Direction splitting up, that was a bit excessive, but you don't realise," he says. "People around me said, 'You're going to be missed', and I went, 'Oh, I doubt it'."

Those who've been missing Martin's cheeky-chappie persona have no doubt been watching him cook his way around France, in new ITV series James Martin's French Adventure.

Over the course of 20-episodes, he's visiting foodie regions from Provence to Brittany and paying tribute to his late friend - and "still the best" TV cook - Keith Floyd, who made his home in L'Isle sur la Sorgue, and in whose old Citroen 2CV Martin drives around the country.

"He was one of the first ones, where he took that bench away. Before that, it was almost like a school lecture," Martin recalls of Floyd's pioneering role in TV cooking. "He never pretended to be a famous chef, he was an amazing foodie, with a vast knowledge and he was brilliant with people."

PASSIONATE: James Martin found his love for France aged 12

The same could be said for Martin who first fell in love with France on family holidays. At just 12 years old, he started training in the kitchen at the Hostellerie de Plaisance in St Emilion - and makes an emotional return in the series.

He also called up old friend and mentor Michel Roux Sr, and spent "one of the most memorable days of my life" cooking in his garden near St Tropez.

"The weather was beautiful, we cooked outside on a barbecue on his terrace, I went swimming in his pool and beat him at petanque! Now he doesn't want to speak to me any more," he says, chuckling again.

The book that accompanies the series is bursting with French classics - you'll find French onion soup, moules mariniere, steak au poivre and, of course, creme brulee and pain au chocolat.

"I eat and drink what I like - I was on The Chris Evans Breakfast Show and had half a bottle of red wine, a loaf of bread and some duck rillettes for breakfast. But the problem is, when you get over 40, you have to get something called a gym. I've got a gym, it's calling me now, and I just kind of look at it and go, 'Really?'" he adds with a laugh.

Drifting through history

LAST YEAR was the finale for The Drifters after six decades of tours, shows, and fans. But from the band's end, comes their history, and a show titled Stand By Me, which is coming to Tunbridge Wells' Assembly Hall on March 24.

The history of the group that helped define Atlantic Records is told through anecdotes of former band members on screen.

For tickets visit assemblyhalltheatre.co.uk

Motown magic returns

AFTER a sold out show in 2016, The Magic of Motown is set to return to Margate's Winter Gardens on March 25.

Live on stage it is the music of the Temptations, Diana Ross and The Supremes, Four Tops, Stevie Wonder, Jackson 5, Marvin Gaye, and Lionel Richie. The show includes hits such as Stop in the Name of Love; Get Ready, and I Want You Back.

Visit margatewintergardens.co.uk.

Fairytale workshops

DARTFORD'S Orchard Theatre are holding a day of fun-filled, family activities on March 19.

Children and their grown-ups will be able to join in with fairytale themed workshops.

Families are also invited to dress up as their favourite fairytale characters for the fancy dress parade.

For more information visit orchardtheatre.co.uk

1000sqm jumping fun

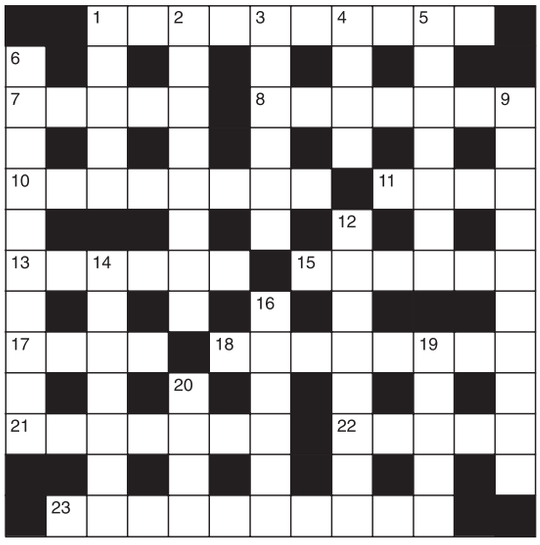
AIRJUMP TRAMPOLINE PARK will open in Orpington next month.

The park will boast a 14,000 square foot site with 1000 square metres of pure trampoline space. The new park will accomodate 60 jumpers per hour and will be open until late at 10pm, seven days a week.

Although a date is yet to be confirmed, the grand opening of AirJump will take place this March with special performers and guests.

PUZZLES

DOUBLE CROSSWORD



Quick

Across

1. Radiance (10)
7. Concerning (5)
8. Huge (7)
10. Certain (8)
11. Burn (4)
13. Natural (6)
15. Nasty (6)
17. Competent (4)
18. Regular (8)
21. Scrutinise (7)
22. Monarch (5)
23. Indignation (10)

Down

1. Smashed (5)
2. Gap (8)
3. Sympathetic (6)
4. Call (4)
5. Asphyxiate (7)
6. Slander (10)
9. Ancestral (10)
12. Interpret (8)
14. Free (7)
16. Instant (6)
19. Apportion (5)
20. Exist (4)

Cryptic

Across

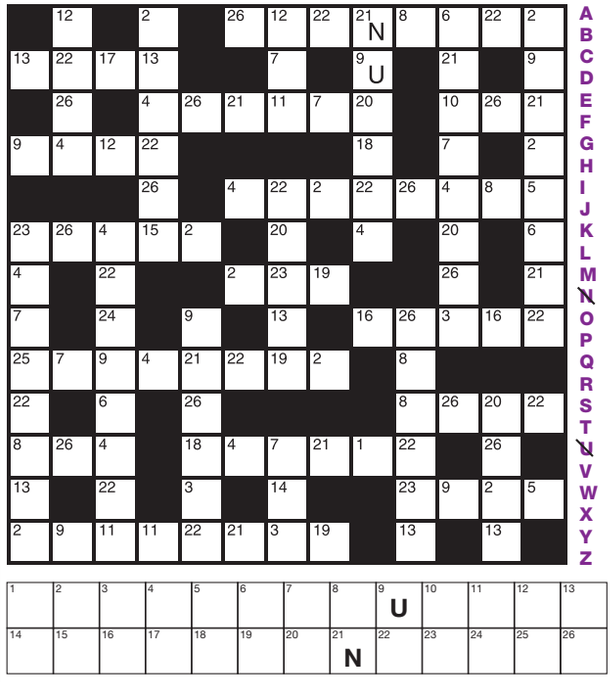
1. It's transformed by unaffected expert on plant life (10)
7. Get in the shade somehow (5)
8. Justice in Shakespeare is far from profound (7)
10. Joint suppliers of a Schubert arrangement (8)
11. Put up with being stripped, we hear (4)
13. E.g. this will upset the river crews (6)
15. Strong ale - he can carry a load! (6)
17. Some of the racecourses not belonging to them (4)
18. Painless adjustment for dogs (8)
21 and 3Dn. On the edge of the main holiday centre! (7,6)
22. Is to go to law for the children (5)
23. The Dee Sisters becoming important personalities on paper! (10)

Down

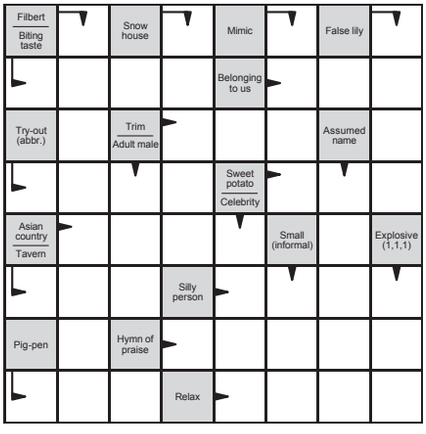
1. Lack of clear profit for sizeable musical group (5)
2. He's set to vary the drives of course (3,5)
3. See 21 Across.
4. Behold an advance (4)
5. Prominent visitor from abroad seen in the street (7)
6. Reliable youngsters employed at the equestrian centre (6,4)
9. Battle clothing for women with key jobs? (10)
12. Company no longer restricts administrative regions (8)
14. A bouquet for Judy (7)
16. A bit each (6)
19. Calms rough sea round the south-east (5)
20. An inclination to take part in tournaments (4)

CODEWORD

This puzzle has no clues. Instead, every number printed in the grid represents a letter, with the same number always representing the same letter.
For example, if 8 turns out to be a V, you can write in V wherever a square contains 8. Using your knowledge of words, complete the puzzle.



Arrowword

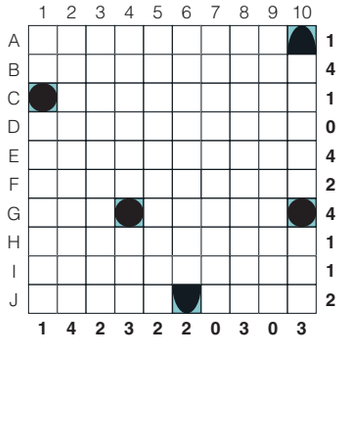


Enter your answers in the direction indicated by the arrows.

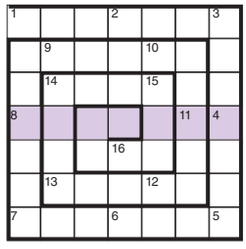
Battleships

Find where ships shown below are hidden in the grid. The numbers to the right of and below the grid indicate how many of the squares in that row are filled in with ships or parts of ships. The ships do not touch each other, even diagonally. Some of the squares have been filled to start you off.

THE FLEET
1 x Battleship
2 x Cruiser
3 x Destroyer
4 x Submarine



Word Spiral



Starting from 1, fill in the grid clockwise with four-letter words. The last letter of each word becomes the first letter of the next to reveal the key word in the shaded boxes.

1. Brave man
2. Gemstone
3. Den
4. Speed contest
5. Dutch cheese
6. Planet
7. Cult
8. Discretion
9. At that time
10. Naked
11. Direction
12. Horse's gait
13. Tense
14. Petty quarrel
15. Unsightly fat
16. Explosive device

Keyword clue: A drinking glass

SUDOKU

Hard

	2			7				6
		9			3	7		
				6				5
6		1			9			7
		4				3		
9			8			5		4
8				3				
		3	1			9	4	
4				9				

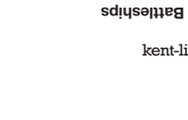
Easy

1		2			3			9
	8			5	7		4	2
	6		8			5	3	
		1	4			2		
	4		9		1		6	
6		3		8	5			4
	3	4			9		8	
		6		7				
8		5	3			7		6

Solutions

Arrowword

Battleships



Double Crossword

Cryptic
Across: 1 Naturalist; 7 Tinge; 8 Shallow; 10 Butchers; 11 Bear; 13 Eights; 15 Porter; 17 Ours; 18 Spaniels; 21 Seaside; 22 Issue; 23 Editresses. Down: 1 Nonet; 2 Tee shots; 3 Resort; 4 Loan; 5 Sallent; 6 Stable boys; 9 Warrresses; 12 Counties; 14 Garland; 16 Apiece; 19 Eases; 20 Tilt.

Quick
Across: 1 Brightness; 7 About; 8 Mammoth; 10 Unerring; 11 Char; 13 Normal; 15 Horrid; 17 Able; 18 Constant; 21 Examine; 22 Ruler; 23 Resentment.
Down: 1 Broke; 2 Interval; 3 Humane; 4 Name; 5 Smother; 6 Calumniate; 9 Hereditary; 12 Construe; 14 Release; 16 Moment; 19 Allot; 20 Live.

Codeword
1=Z, 2=S, 3=L, 4=R, 5=H, 6=I, 7=O, 8=C, 9=U, 10=F, 11=D, 12=G, 13=T, 14=W, 15=K, 16=V, 17=X, 18=B, 19=Y, 20=M, 21=N, 22=E, 23=P, 24=Q, 25=J, 26=A

Word Spiral
1 Hero; 2 Opal; 3 Lair; 4 Race; 5 Edam; 6 Mars; 7 Sect; 8 Tact; 9 Then; 10 Nude; 11 East; 12 Trot; 13 Taut; 14 Tiff; 15 Flab; 16 Bomb.
Keyword: Tumbler

Sudoku - Easy

1	5	2	6	4	3	8	7	9
3	8	9	1	5	7	6	4	2
4	6	7	8	9	2	5	3	1
9	7	1	4	3	6	2	5	8
5	4	8	9	2	1	3	6	7
6	2	3	7	8	5	9	1	4
7	3	4	2	6	9	1	8	5
2	1	6	5	7	8	4	9	3
8	9	5	3	1	4	7	2	6

Sudoku - Hard

3	2	8	5	7	1	4	9	6
5	6	9	4	8	3	7	2	1
1	4	7	9	6	2	8	3	5
6	5	1	3	4	9	2	8	7
7	8	4	6	2	5	3	1	9
9	3	2	8	1	7	5	6	4
8	9	6	7	3	4	1	5	2
2	7	3	1	5	6	9	4	8
4	1	5	2	9	8	6	7	3

The luxurious indoor pool at Les Ormes and. Inset, A mobile home at Parc de Fierbois part of Les Castels group.

Enjoy Loire castles while roaming free

BRIDGET GALTON and family scaled zip slides and explored the Loire's castles while staying on fun packed campsites

STANDING on a rocky outcrop with the Atlantic swirling below my feet, I could hear my eight-year-old shouting: 'I'm basically dead'.

He'd lost his footing on narrow wires strung between two boulders at Fort de Bertheaume in the far west of Brittany and was experiencing a catastrophic failure of nerve.

The instructor running this extreme 'parcours aventure' helpfully reminded us we were clipped in at all times. but beyond the skimpy 'bridge' I could see a vertical rockface followed by a vertigo-inducing zip slide from the fort back to the mainland.

Reader, we channelled our inner Bear Grylls and scaled that mountain and the feeling of achievement was a total high.

DETAILS

Bridget and family travelled with Brittany Ferries Portsmouth to Caen bookings brittany-ferries.co.uk.
She stayed in a mobile home courtesy of Camping Castels (camping-castels.co.uk) where you can enjoy the French 'art de vivre' with independent owners proud of France's heritage

Our fortnight in France turned out to be a cook's tour of so called 'Tyrolienne'.

Two hours after rolling off our Britanny Ferries boat at Caen our first stop was Les Castels campsite Les Ormes. Over two days we sampled pony rides, wave pool, heated indoor pool with slides, treetop high ropes and Tyrolienne zips. Even the four-year-old flew over the site strapped in a harness whooping with joy.

The sun emerged just as we moved south to the Loire valley and Les Castels site Parc de Fierbois. Naturally there was also a parcours aventure and zip slides across the water which the two older ones tried as I rowed around the lake in a dingy the next day.

The site is brilliantly placed to explore the Loire's famous chateaus and from Sancerre and Pouilly Fume to fruity Vouvray, we also enjoyed many locally produced wines. An ideal trip for big and little kids alike then.

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Centre closure not full picture

YOUR article on the proposals for River Lawn in Tonbridge [KoS, last week] missed several wider points. I have been a resident of the Barden area for nearly 20 years and while I welcome the plan for a new medical centre, I have a number of reservations.

The council agreed to sell off the Teen and Twenty club, plus land in River Lawn and also the building further along River Walk that used to house the Citizens Advice Bureau.

This will give them money in the short term, but is rather like 'selling off the family silver'. Once these assets are gone they will have no money and no capital. Wouldn't it be better to keep hold of these assets, but lease or rent them to get a regular income?

The medical centre is to be built by a private company. It will be thinking of profits rather than the health needs of the population. They can charge GPs and other care providers whatever they like - not an ideal situation.

I was present when the cabinet discussed the sale of the Teen and Twenty club, and so I know that our two local ward councillors, Peter Bolt and David Cure, have voiced their concerns about pressure on parking. There was talk of further housing being built on River Lawn in addition to the medical centre - but there is simply not room for both of these in addition to sufficient parking.

The site is an excellent location for people arriving by public transport. It will also be handy for commuters on their way to or from work but when Higham Lane surgery closes, those living there will have a long way to travel.

The River Lawn is part of the public walk alongside the Medway and has some beautiful mature trees. It is really important that these are preserved. When the redevelopment takes place, the opportunity should be taken to replace the grass with some more imaginative landscaping that helps to prevent flooding.

Fran Long,
Tonbridge

Granger's back for Duff baiting

AS usual, Ray Duff aims at the wrong target(s) and rails at the wrong people [KoS, letters 12.2].

The two main elephants in the room are over population and big business pushing the continual increase in consumerism, which is expanding from the West to 'poorer'areas of the world. Not only is this causing pollution of land, sea and air, but also depleting irreplaceable resources.

The measures taken in this country, which only has 0.16 per cent of the world's land mass and 0.9 per cent of the population, are quite frankly pathetic.

While China continues building coal fired power stations to manufacture our goods (so we can be holier than thou) and countries like Germany defy regulations and do the same, whatever difference can we make? The pollution in India is the stuff of nightmares.

Mr Duff should get out more and see what's happening in the world.

For sure, the greed, stupidity and selfishness of those who really run the world will be the death of us, long before climate change. So stop tilting at windmills Ray Duff and if you really want change, aim at the right targets.

Phil Granger,
West Malling

LETTER OF THE WEEK

What's Geldof ever done? Nothing! (Er...)

MOST weeks I pick up a copy of KoS as it contains good information and news on Kent, however you have gone a step too far with the editorial on February 19.

I refer to the taking in of lone Syrian children without stating all the relevant facts.

Firstly, most citizens of the UK are sympathetic to the problems that the war in Syria is causing in mainly Europe, and which is also being exploited by many others such as sub-Sahara Africa. All refugees can and should claim a place of safety in the first country/safe haven they get to, and that is in no way the UK.

Kent is already taking care of, and supporting more than 750 lone children, as other local authorities and councils will not take any. The UK is not the world's social and benefit provider however harsh that may seem. The UK is crumbling in practically every area due to a huge population growth over the last 20 years or so, resulting in housing shortages, health, and social care.

What is being done about all the homeless people in Kent? Nothing! Many are ex-service personnel who have been pushed onto the streets, many with mental health issues,

Those needing social care are now being ignored due to continuing budget cuts from central government and as a result causing even more strain on the NHS. The list goes on.

So before you start raising issues that will cause the UK and especially Kent even more problems, you should start targeting all the so called celebrity 'spout offs' such as Bono, Bob Geldof and Yvette Cooper and the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Bishop of Dover who so like to preach about what should be done but do nothing themselves. How many refugees are they housing and/or financially supporting? It is safe to assume 'zero'.

The UK must now put its own people and their needs first, the country can only do so much.

Nick Hamilton
by email

Blair should keep his snout out

SOME 59 per cent of voters in Kent supported the Leave campaign in June last year, and I have no doubt that they did not do so lightly, or because they were unaware of the issues involved.

Indeed, had they been so I suspect that they would either have voted for the status quo, on the principle of better the devil you know, or else just abstained.

However, if anyone wishes to know why the liberal establishment have lost all support among the ordinary people of this country they need look no further than one of its most arrogant members, Tony Blair. In expressing his contempt for the intelligence of the electorate, and for the choice they have made concerning EU membership, he perfectly represents those who have consistently put British interests behind those of the selfish supporters of the federalist experiment.

The voters of Kent, and indeed of the entire country, should remember the reasons they have chosen freedom over subservience to Brussels and treat Tony Blair with the same contempt with which he treats them.

Colin Bullen,
Tonbridge

We're with you Craig on fishing

CRAIG Mackinlay is correct to brand attempts to maintain Britain's fishing quotas following Brexit as completely unacceptable [KoS, last week].

The majority of Mr Mackinlay's South Thanet constituents are right behind him over this.

Britain, and east Kent in particular, was sold down the river when we joined the Common Market in 1973. Any acceptable agreement following Brexit will have to be on much better terms than those on which we originally joined.

The European Union has destroyed large swathes of British industry, leaving us totally dependent on an unstable financial sector. This has to be put right with honest and fair agreements, looking for mutual gain rather than exploitation.

Restricting our view to Kent and agriculture, the European Union has destroyed our world famous hop and apple growing industries. These industries must be rebuilt.

There is a horrible possibility that Mrs May will follow in Mr Cameron's footsteps by giving away just about anything that Europe asks providing that her pet banking and financial sector is protected. New secrets legislation will prevent us from even discussing the issues.

Unless the UK has an openly and fairly negotiated replacement for the current European Union treaties, which at present appears unlikely, our best course of action will be to fall back on no treaty at all, in other words World Trade Organisation agreements.

Frederic Stansfield,
Ramsgate

KOS 10 GUIDING PRINCIPLES

AS part of our commitment to providing the best service to you, we have produced our 10 guiding principles

Kent on Sunday will:

1) Be available in every postcode in Kent.
2) Be fair, accurate and balanced.
3) Be written in clear, concise English.
4) Not be overly sensational.
5) Have a sense of humour.
6) Have an easily understood division between news, comment and advertising.
7) Seek to celebrate as well as constructively criticise.
8) Highlight topical issues of concern to people living in the county.
9) Spotlight individual cases which raise broader concerns.
10) Champion causes that it feels are important to the well-being of the county and its people.

We hope you enjoy Kent on Sunday.

images of kent

The Ropewalk in Sandwich

by **Anthony McCully from Sandwich**

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holidays

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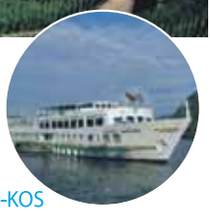
Rhine & Moselle River Cruise



Andernach, Cochem, Boppard, Rudesheim, Koblenz, Konigswinter & Cologne

By Rail from Ebbsfleet or Air from Gatwick
4 & 25 June, 3 Sept & 11 Oct, 2017 - Quote: RH-KOS

Come with us on a relaxing river cruise on the majestic Rhine and beautiful Moselle rivers in southern Germany. Relax on board the MV Prinses Christina as she glides silkily past romantic hilltop castles, picturesque vineyards and historic riverside towns. Our cruise visits Andernach, Cochem, Boppard, Rudesheim, Koblenz, Konigswinter and Cologne. Accommodation is in comfortable outside twin cabins with breakfast, lunch and dinner each day included as well as morning coffee and afternoon tea.

INCLUDED: Escorted throughout • Return rail travel from London St Pancras and Ebbsfleet OR flights with luggage from a choice of UK airports - supp't may apply • 7-night full board cruise on the MV Prinses Christina sharing a twin bed outside cabin on Cabin Deck - upgrades available • Transfers abroad

*Low deposit conditions apply - call for details

Somerset Seaside 60s Party

3 nights
half board
PLUS
£159pp

Pontins Sand Bay Somerset Coast

Self-Drive • Friday, 16 June, 2017 - Quote: SA6-KOS

Join us at Pontins Sand Bay resort, near Weston Super Mare in Somerset, for a Super Summer Party - for over 40s only - packed with entertainment. We've lined up a brilliant showbill with Union Gap, The Pacemakers, The Swinging Blue Jeans, Roy Carter (ex-Drifters & Foundations) PLUS The New All Stars. With non-stop entertainment from Friday evening to late Sunday and free drinks every night, this is going to be a party weekend to remember.

Free Drinks
Entertainment
Over 40s only
£10pp deposit

INCLUDED: 3 Free drinks per person per night - house beers & spirits, wine by the glass, pumped soft drinks & pumped mixers • Full entertainment programme • 3 nights en-suite chalet - club upgrade available • 3 breakfasts & 3 dinners • Free parking

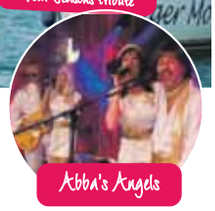
Seaside 60s Sounds in West Sussex

Chatsworth Hotel, Worthing
31 March, 2017 • Quote: WG3-KOS

Join us in Worthing for an exclusive Party Weekend and enjoy £1 drinks and a 60s music tribute act each night, including Rob Wheeler 'The Beatle' and Steve Williamson 60s Motown sounds of the Drifters, The Stylistics, The Four Tops & The Temptations. The Chatsworth is one of the finest hotels on the south coast, just a stone's throw from the sea and a short stroll to the town centre. All bedrooms are en-suite and a lift services all floors.

INCLUDED: Happy Hour £1 drinks from 7pm to 8pm both evenings - pint of house beer or small glass of wine • Live entertainment both nights • 2 nights sharing an en-suite bedroom with TV & free wifi • 2 dinners and 2 breakfasts

Isle of Wight Mamma Mia & Super 70s Christmas Party



Warner Norton Grange
1 December, 2017 - Quote CN12-KOS

The ever-popular music of Abba and other 70s icons takes centre stage at our exclusive Christmas Party. You'll enjoy Free drinks, good food, quality accommodation, free car ferry and a super location at Warner's Norton Grange resort, at Yarmouth on the Isle of Wight. Entertainment features top Abba tribute band Abba's Angels and a Mamma Mia movie screening PLUS tributes to The Four Seasons, The Bee Gees and more.

INCLUDED: Free drinks 6pm to midnight every night - house beers & spirits, wine by the glass, pumped soft drinks & pumped mixers • Full entertainment programme • 3 nights en-suite chalet - upgrades available • 3 breakfasts & 3 dinners • Free car ferry • Free parking

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YOUR GUIDE TO THE NEW REGISTRATION MOTORING SCENE

Mercedes-Benz Vito

Nissan Pulsar

Join in the benefits of a 17 plate

NEW car registrations in 2016 were a UK record, rising 2.3 per cent against 2015 to nearly 2.7 million.

And the motor industry's mouthpiece, the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders (SMMT), has admitted this year's total will be lucky to reach the same dizzying heights, though the market should remain robust:

"Despite 2016's political and economic uncertainties, the UK's new car market delivered another record performance as carmakers offered an incredible range of innovative and high tech models," said SMMT chief executive Mike Hawes.

"2017 may well be more challenging as sterling depreciation raises the price of imported goods but, with interest rates still at historic lows and a range of new models arriving in 2017, there are still many reasons for consumers to consider a new car in 2017."

> **"There are still many reasons for consumers to consider a new car in 2017**

Those are wide-ranging model choices and low interest rates, with the latter persuading many buyers to sign on the dotted line, or spend rather than save.

Britain's new car market is one of the world's most diverse, with 40-plus brands offering nearly 400 different ranges - 70 new product launches are already planned for 2017.

Fleet and company car users accounted for 1.38 million registrations last year, but private buyers were not far behind with 1.2 million deals done.

Diesel – dominant for so long – is falling from favour, particularly with private buyers. It still took 47.7 per cent of the market versus petrol's 49 per cent, but alternatively fuelled vehicle (AFV) sales are growing fast now.

That sector expanded by more than a fifth (22.2 per cent) over last year, with plug-in hybrids and petrol electric hybrids up 41.9 per cent and 25.1 per cent respectively.

Lexus NX

Before you buy a new car...

DO... Ask for trimmings like a tank of fuel, car mats or further discounts or extras.

Pick a model that saves fuel, insurance, road tax and depreciation – it isn't getting any easier out there. The Personal Contract Purchase (PCP) is now the nation's favourite way to acquire a new car because the driver knows what he has to budget for – the best is Peugeot's Just Add Fuel, which means just that.

Tread carefully with 'eco' models: check price, running costs, green credentials and savings on planned mileage versus years of ownership, then compare the closest standard version. The latter's overall savings might surprise you.

Make the most of your part exchange: Assuming you are not trading in a banger that the dealer will simply pack off to the nearest auction, it pays to make the most of your old car. Clean and polish it and replace obvious missing items such as a wheel cover or badge; don't give the salesman an excuse to mark its value down. And make sure all the paperwork and history is neatly packaged up to go with the car; be critical of your old motor and put right what you can without spending big.

> **"Pick a model that saves fuel, insurance, road tax and depreciation – it isn't getting any easier out there**

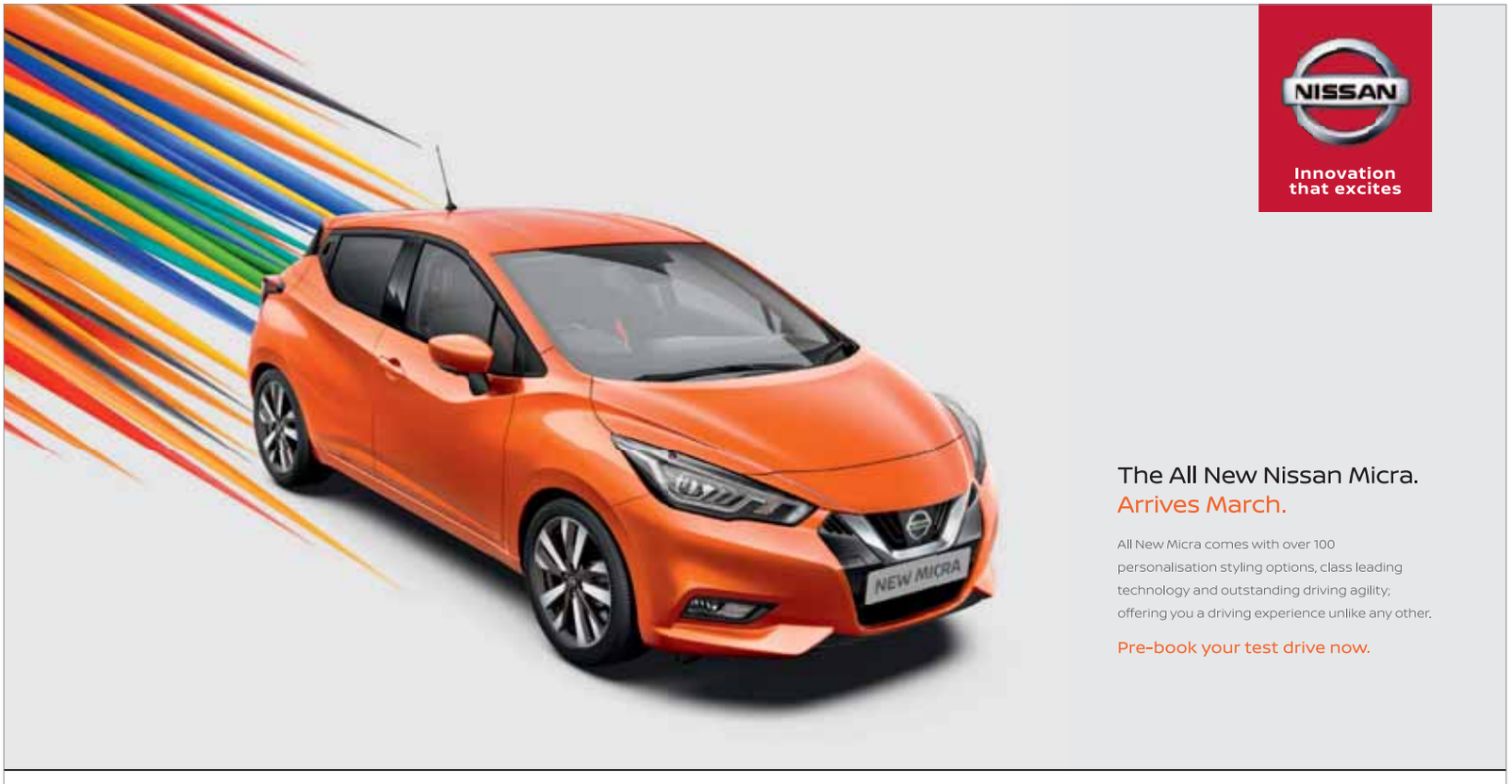
Lexus IS

Peugeot 3008

DON'T... Accept the first deal on offer – be ready to haggle.

Fall for what seems like a big bargain before you even haggle. It could be an unpopular engine/trim combination or a car on 'run-out' where production ceased a while ago. It might depreciate badly.

Assume a diesel will save: you usually pay more upfront for diesel power, so you must cover more miles to claw that money back in fuel economy. And the engines are generally heavier, causing more wear on front tyres and mechanicals. We also know that diesel emissions are finally being called into question, while the economy and emissions on small petrol cars have improved dramatically and they are often nicer to drive. In short - do your sums.



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All New Micra Range: URBAN 80.7-48.7mpg (5.8-3.5L/100km); EXTRA URBAN 91.1-72.4mpg (3.9-3.1L/100km); COMBINED 88.3-61.4mpg (5.4-5.0L/100km); CO_2 emissions 104-85g/km.
Test drive is subject to status and availability.

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CT 200h Sport		Finance deposit allowance	£1,250.00
Cash price	£24,855.00*	Amount of credit	£17,585.50
Term	42 months	Guaranteed future value/ Optional final payment	£9,625.50
41 Monthly payments	£239.00	Total amount payable	£26,694.00
Customer deposit	£5,269.50	Fixed Rate of Interest (per annum)	2.01%
Centre deposit contribution	£750.00	Representative	3.9% APR*

Representative Example.

Specification includes:

- Black 17" Alloys, black mirror caps and black spindle grille
- Smart Entry
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LEXUS TUNBRIDGE WELLS Dowding Way, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN2 3UY 01892 598 870 www.tunbridgewells.lexus.co.uk

CT 200h prices start from £21,995. Model shown is CT 200h SPORT £24,855, includes optional metallic paint at £610.
Terms and conditions: *3.9% APR Representative, £1,250 finance deposit allowance and a £750 Centre deposit contribution available on new retail sales of CT. 24-42 months on Lexus Connect (PCP), up to 35% deposit and Guaranteed Future Value/Optional Final Payment. CT new retail sales. Ordered and proposed for finance between 9th February 2017 and 31 March 2017, registered and financed by 30 June 2017 through Lexus Financial Services. Participating Lexus Centres. Lexus Centres are independent of Lexus Financial Services. Terms and conditions apply. Indemnities may be required. Finance subject to status to over 18s only. Lexus Financial Services is a trading name of Toyota Financial Services (UK) PLC. Registered Office: Great Burgh, Burgh Heath, Epsom, KT18 5UZ. Authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority.

The MPG figures quoted are sourced from official EU-regulated test results. They are provided for comparability purposes, and may not reflect actual driving experience. CT 200h Sport fuel consumption and CO_2 figures: urban 68.9 mpg (4.1 l/100km), extra-urban 70.6 mpg (4.0 l/100km), combined 68.9 mpg (4.1 l/100km), 94g/km CO_2 (15% BIK).

Prepare your checklist first

CAR buyers' attitudes to booking a test drive range from obsession to indifference, but it is worthwhile before signing paperwork.

So, book early - New Reg is a busy time for dealers, so map out a test schedule, driving each candidate soon after another for more accurate comparisons. It helps that many dealers are grouped at 'motor city' sites like Broad Oak at Canterbury, Ashford's Orbital Park and Dowding Way, Tunbridge Wells, allowing easy shuttling from one dealer to the next.

Don't be hurried – insist on time to test the car in town traffic, on the motorway or a high-speed road and on less well-maintained rural roads.

What are you looking for? Experience of different road surfaces, highlighting seating and ride comfort issues, plus engine, wind, tyre and mechanical noise. And especially...

Do you like the controls?

It used to be easy to find your way around dashboards, but most carmakers are now going their own way in search of the best human interaction, but they don't suit everyone. Touchscreens - for sound systems and much more - and electronic handbrakes are just two possible bugbears.

Is it the right spec? Try to get a test car as close to the one you are interested in, even if you must wait a few days extra or go to another dealership.

Make it a family outing - It can be a painful process of 'are we there yet?' proportions, but try to involve as many of the would-be car users - drivers and non-drivers. This can answer questions about comfort and visibility in the rear and, specifically, is there really room for three across the back seat, especially if one place must take a strap-in child seat or booster? Also, can you lift shopping in and out of the boot easily or indeed, is there much of a boot?

Don't feel pressured - whether you have one or several candidates to check out. Always go away and weigh your thoughts; maybe leave the salesman with a reason to be cheerful by asking whether it would be OK to come back later for another test drive. If the response is lukewarm then you've learned something there too!

Lexus RX

Peugeot 208

> **New reg is a busy time for dealers, so map out a test schedule**

Nissan Qashqai

MOTORLINE CANTERBURY

Broad Oak Road, CANTERBURY, CT2 7PX 01227 451791 www.motorline-canterbury.co.uk

Official Fuel Consumption in MPG (l/100km) and CO_2 emissions (g/km) for the **108 Range** are: Urban 52.3 – 56.5 (5.4 – 5.0), Extra Urban 74.3 – 78.5 (3.8 – 3.6), Combined 65.7 – 68.9 (4.3 – 4.1) and CO_2 99 – 95 (g/km). MPG figures are achieved under official EU test conditions, intended as a guide for comparative purposes only, and may not reflect actual on-the-road driving conditions. Terms and conditions apply, participating dealers only or visit peugeot.co.uk **Motorline Canterbury Ltd is acting as a credit broker and is not a lender.** ^Representative 4.9% APR over 37 months. Finance is subject to status. To finance your purchase we will introduce you to PSA Finance UK Ltd, provider of PEUGEOT's innovative finance package - Just Add Fuel®. A guarantee may be required. Finance provided by and written quotations available from PSA Finance UK Ltd, Quadrant House, Princess Way, Redhill, RH1 1QA. +The first year Road Fund Licence (RFL) is provided with the car. Where vehicle tax is payable after the first year the Dealer will provide customers with a cheque for the value of years 2 and 3 RFL (based on current rates). The customer must always apply for years 2 & 3 RFL. Just Add Fuel® is subject to status.*Minimum age 18, maximum age 75. **Drivers are required to install the Telematics Box & consent to Data capture & transmission to qualify for insurance.** All drivers must hold a full UK licence & meet eligibility criteria including limits on driving convictions & claims. **Insurance subject to cancellation if you receive four warnings for poor driving.** Excesses apply. 3 years motor insurance is provided and underwritten by U K Insurance Limited which is authorised by the Prudential Regulation Authority and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority and the Prudential Regulation Authority. Payments will vary according to age, post code and annual mileage. Customer deposit may be required. The costs of insurance, servicing and Roadside Assistance are included within the monthly cost of Just Add Fuel® Passport but are provided on a monthly pay-as-you-go basis and can be cancelled at any time without penalty or affecting the remainder of the Just Add Fuel® Passport contract. Excess mileage charges may apply. Routine servicing included only. Excludes wear parts. All offers available on qualifying vehicles ordered and registered between 01/03/17 and 31/03/17 or until such time as they may be withdrawn by PEUGEOT at its complete discretion. Calls maybe recorded for training purposes. Calls charged at local rate. All information correct at time of going to press. Visit peugeot.co.uk for full product details.

Van buying tips

SIZE it up – gauging van space and weight needs is crucial for small or start-up businesses, so opt for one that can grow with your needs. Conversely, a bigger and under-used van could cripple a fledgling business through higher leasing and operating costs.

Access – do you need one or two sliding doors, and will you have to unload in cramped spaces, making twin rear doors better than a tailgate?

Powertrain – you'll probably want diesel, though electric might be good for your firm's image and operating costs if you cover few miles. Opt for an automatic gearbox too for urban or stop-start work. If you cram your van and use all of its weight capacity, consider a bigger engine.

Do your research – check which models win awards: the van media tends to be hard-nosed about operating costs, convenience and other aspects – awards will be well earned.

Take a test drive – you or staff member will spend lots of time in the van: is it easy to live with, handle and park?

Does it look good? – are appearances important to your firm's image?

Nissan NV200

Above; Mercedes-Benz Citan

Peugeot Expert

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Jason King, Finance Director, Watling JCB

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Fuel consumption in mpg (l/100km) for the models shown: Urban 38.7 (7.3) – 68.9 (4.1), Extra Urban 61.4 (4.6) – 85.6 (3.3), Combined 50.4 (5.6) – 78.5 (3.6), CO_2 emissions 130 – 94g/km. MPG figures are official EU test figures for comparative purposes and may not reflect real driving results. Models shown: Picanto 'SE' 1.25 4-speed auto, Rio 'SE' 1.1 CRDi 6-speed manual ISG and Venga '1 Air' 1.4 5-speed manual ISG. Nil advance payment is correct at the time of going to press and is subject to orders being accepted between 01.01.2017 and 31.03.2017. Motability customers only. 7 year / 100,000 mile manufacturer's warranty, for terms and exclusions visit www.kia.co.uk. Motability is offered on selected vehicles across the Kia range, find out more at www.kia.co.uk

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Motability

Model shown: Ignis SZ5 ALLGRIP at £13,999 on the road (metallic paint available from £465). Ignis range official fuel consumption figures in mpg (L/100km): Urban from 51.3 (5.5) to 57.6 (4.9), Extra Urban from 64.2 (4.4) to 70.6 (4.0), Combined from 60.1 (4.7) to 65.7 (4.3). Official CO_2 emissions from 106g/km to 97g/km.

The above fuel consumption figures are based on an EU test for comparative purposes only and may not reflect driving results. *Free insurance offer: Excludes Ignis SZ3. UK residents aged 21-79 only. Order by 28 February 2017, register by 31 March 2017. Subject to availability. Offer only available when vehicle purchased through Personal Contract Purchase (PCP) by Suzuki Finance, available from participating Dealers, subject to status. Terms, exclusions & eligibility criteria apply, see suzuki.co.uk/cars/ignisfreeinsurance. 5.9% APR representative on Suzuki Personal Contract Purchase. Maximum 49 month term. Terms and Conditions apply. The offer above is available from participating Authorised Suzuki Dealers only. The offer cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer unless otherwise stated. Finance is provided by Suzuki Financial Services Ltd (excludes Channel Islands and Isle of Man). Suzuki Financial Services Ltd reserves the right to withdraw or amend this offer without notice or prior warning. Suzuki Financial Services Ltd, part of Lloyds Banking Group, St William House, Tresillian Terrace, Cardiff, CF10 5BH. Suzuki Insurance is provided by Original Insurance Services, registered in England and Wales No. 05686831 at Batchworth House, Church Street, Rickmansworth, Hertfordshire, WD3 1JE and is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority. It is underwritten by Allianz Insurance plc, registered in England No. 84638 at 57 Ladymead, Guildford, Surrey, GU1 1DB. Allianz Insurance plc is authorised by the Prudential Regulation Authority and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority and the Prudential Regulation Authority (Financial Services Register No. 121849). Offer correct at time of going to print.

5.9% APR REPRESENTATIVE

PERSONAL CONTRACT PURCHASE
Suzuki Finance Nav

driving

By Steve Loader
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

BUZZ: Hyundai's original i10 set the city car sector alive. Incredibly, it's still doing it with its facelifted second generation

Hyundai's baby gets its facelift and thrills us again

MY head buzzed for a week when I first drove the current Hyundai i10.

Not because it was a bag of nails, but because I kept telling myself how impressive it was against its predecessor.

And the original i10 (2008-13) had pretty much nailed the city car format at the first attempt, if we discount Hyundai's quite awful Atoz, axed from the UK in 2001.

Admittedly, the Mark 1 i10 looked slightly bizarre, being styled to fit four people, give them an entry door each, and not much else to impress the eye, but it was cheap to buy, fuel and insure.

Hyundai's comprehensive five-year/unlimited mileage warranty and the then government's grant-aided Scrappage scheme also helped before its market share soared, as the Korean brand became a major player, overhauling its dealer network to make even greater gains.

So, when the second-generation car arrived in 2014, it really did deliver a buzz by being so much better than its impressive forerunner, offering even greater refinement and adding design, leaving those downsizing satisfied with style, as well as functionality and economy.

The newcomer also had a premium cabin feel, with even more space thanks to a longer wheelbase, and media awards followed.

But Hyundai has shown repeatedly that it doesn't do resting on laurels: the car – now priced from £9,250 – has just received a facelift to refresh the interior and exterior, and debut the marque's new family grille.

Other updates include a seven-inch touchscreen with navigation plus Android Auto and Apple CarPlay, and updated safety.

Higher spec models also get a seven-year free subscription to TomTom's LIVE Services, offering real-time traffic and weather conditions, points of interest and other on-the-move info.

That buzzing just started again...

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KENT LIFE

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ARCHANT

Revamped Logan a home from home

Romanian load-lugger has had a facelift to make it homelier and more efficient, without any major price hikes – how much longer can you resist such a bargain?

Dacia Logan MCV Ambiance dCi 90

Price:	from £10,195
Driving appeal:	★★★★
Image:	★★★
Space:	★★★★★
Value:	★★★★★
Running costs:	★★★★★
How green?:	★★★★
Best rival:	Citroën Berlingo

DACIA means 'home' in old Romanian, which is probably why the capacious Logan MCV feels like a home on wheels.

There is no other estate car like it for space versus price; it certainly earns the MCV (Maximum Capacity Vehicle) label created by Dacia's marketeers.

Starting from an incredible £6,995 – a price unchanged since UK launch in 2013 – it is now even better value than before, after a major revamp.

Renault-owned Dacia has really made it so much nicer to drive with wind, road and engine noise all slashed.

Specifications have been boosted as well: the mid-range Logan Ambiance I drove now comes with air conditioning and digital (DAB) radio as standard.

But Ambiance and upwards still represents a lot of car for the cash, delivering a 573-litre boot with the split/fold rear seats up and a 1,518-litre load bay with them down – better room than most estates from the family class that cost nearly three times as much. There is also plenty of stowage space in the dash, centre console and doors.

Admittedly, you might never love driving the Logan: its handling and dynamics are geared to comfort and the possibility that all that space might be utilised in full for five people and all their luggage – all that weight needs to be well-managed by the Logan's suspension.

But Renault's brotherly largesse is clear from the line-up's modern engines and crisp gearboxes, including the French marque's renowned 1.5dCi turbodiesel (from £10,195) delivering 90hp and decent performance, plus an official combined 80.7mpg.

That's the engine tested here, and it offers a good balance of power and economy, but if you are one of those turning against diesel, then check out the advanced turbocharged 89hp 0.9-litre petrol unit (from £8,795).

This saves more than a grand upfront against the diesel, while still delivering 56.6mpg (combined) plus lively performance.

It's the pick of the range, particularly if you are not going to cover the miles needed to offset the extra outlay on buying the diesel.

Whatever the engine preference though, my previous Logan reviews admitted that would-be buyers might still opt for a nearly new used rival rather than suffer the budget badge and the Logan's lack of on-road style and sophistication, despite the stupendously cheap price.

Post facelift though, the temptation of stretching to a cut-price all-new Logan is so much stronger for most drivers.

*Verso Active 1.6 V-matic Manual at NIL Advance Payment. Model shown is a Verso Icon 7-Seat 1.6 V-matic Manual at £95 Advance Payment. AYGO x-press 5 door 1.0 VVT-i at NIL Advance Payment, Yaris Icon 5 door 1.4 D-4D Manual at NIL Advance Payment, Yaris Hybrid Icon 5 door 1.5 VVT-i Auto at NIL Advance Payment, and Auris Hybrid Icon 5 door 1.8 VVT-i Auto at £495 Advance Payment. Subject to availability. Please note that a total of 60,000 miles over three years are allowed on the Motability Contract Hire Scheme. Offer valid between 1st January and 31st March 2017. Available as part of the Motability Contract Hire Scheme.

Verso Icon 7-Seat 1.6 V-matic Manual. Official Fuel Consumption Figures in mpg (l/100km): Urban 32.8 (8.6), Extra Urban 49.6 (5.7), Combined 41.5 (6.8). CO_2 Emissions 157g/km. AYGO x-press 5 door 1.0 VVT-i x-shift. Official Fuel Consumption Figures in mpg (l/100km): Urban 56.5 (5.0), Extra Urban 78.5 (3.6), Combined 68.9 (4.1). CO_2 Emissions 95g/km. Yaris Icon 5 door 1.4 D-4D Manual. Official Fuel Consumption Figures in mpg (l/100km): Urban 67.3 (4.2), Extra Urban 91.1 (3.1), Combined 80.7 (3.5). CO_2 Emissions 91/km. Yaris Hybrid Icon 5 door 1.5 VVT-i Auto. Official Fuel Consumption Figures in mpg (l/100km): Urban 91.1 (3.1), Extra Urban 85.6 (3.3), Combined 85.6 (3.3). CO_2 Emissions 75g/km. Auris Hybrid Icon 5 door 1.8 VVT-i Auto. Official Fuel Consumption Figures in mpg (l/100km): Urban 80.7 (3.5) Extra Urban 80.7 (3.5) Combined 78.5 (3.6). CO_2 Emissions 82g/km. All mpg and CO_2 figures quoted are sourced from official EU regulated laboratory test results. These are provided to allow comparisons between vehicles and may not reflect your actual driving experience.

Spencer Private Hospitals are two hospitals situated in East Kent. The larger of the two hospitals is a 22 bed independent hospital situated at the QEQM Hospital in Margate, whilst the second hospital is a 4 bed independent hospital based at the William Harvey Hospital in Ashford. Both hospitals have a reputation for providing excellent medical and surgical facilities supported by Specialist Consultants, Specialist Nurses and Physiotherapists. We have state of the art diagnostic equipment and exceptionally high standards of nursing care.

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Margate

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Interview Date - 16/03/2017

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Previous applicants need not apply

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Alternatively, please contact Sarah Blaber, HR Assistant
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LEGAL AND PUBLIC NOTICES

Licensing Act 2003
Application for a New Premises Licence

Name of Applicant: Mr Peter Williams
Premises: 78A Preston Street, Faversham, ME13 8NU
Proposed Licensable activities:
Sale of Alcohol – Monday-Sunday – 10 :00-20 :00
Date to make representations by: 15th March 2017

The licensing applications can be inspected by appointment with the Licensing Team between 10am and 4pm Monday to Friday. Any objections to this application must be made in writing to The Licensing Department

Swale Borough Council
Swale House
East Street
Sittingbourne
Kent, ME10 3HT

It is an offence knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with an application. Any person who makes a false statement is liable, on summary conviction, to a maximum fine of £5,000

LAND ACQUIREMENT ADJACENT TO ROCHESTER ROAD

AJA Holdings Ltd are giving formal notice by public advertisement for the acquisition of a strip of shrub land adjacent to the rear of their existing office. The land in question is to facilitate a change of use and will be used for new car parking facilities. If you have any objections to the aforementioned, please contact us on 01634 863 818 or email your queries to info@southeastrefurbishments.co.uk

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LEGAL AND PUBLIC NOTICES

LICENSING ACT 2003:
Application for Premises Licence

Notice is hereby given that Ali Gun has applied to Canterbury City Council for the GRANT of a Premises Licence to operate the following Regulated Activities: Sale of Alcohol (on the premises only) from 11:00 to 03:00hrs every day; Late Night Refreshment from 23:00 to 03:30 hrs every day, all at the following premises: Cousins Snooker and Pool Club, Suite D, Invicta House, 21, Lower Bridge Street, Canterbury CT1 2LG. A register of licensing applications can be inspected at www.canterbury.gov.uk/licensing or at Council Offices, Military Road, Canterbury, Kent CT1 1YW tel. 01227 862000 by appointment with the Licensing Team between 10am and 4pm Monday to Friday. Any person wishing to submit representations to this application must give notice in writing to the address shown above, giving in detail the grounds of objection by 23/03/2017. The Council will not entertain representations where the writer requests that their identity remains anonymous. Copies of all representations will be included in the papers presented to the Licensing Sub Committee and will therefore pass into the public domain. Representations must relate to one or more of the four Licensing Objectives: the prevention of crime and disorder, public safety, the prevention of public nuisance and the protection of children from harm.

PUBLIC NOTICE
Licensing Act 2003 –
Application to Vary Licence

Notice is hereby given that Indie Coffee And Eats Ltd has applied to Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council on Friday 17th February 2017 to vary the premises licence for The Swan Street Cafe situated at 19-21, Swan Street, West Malling, Kent ME19 6JU to

1. Permit a variation to the internal layout of the premises as per the plans deposited with the application for Variation of the Licence with the Council

The application can be viewed at the offices of Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council, Gibson Building, Gibson Drive, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent ME19 4LZ between 9.00 a.m. and 4.00 p.m, Monday to Friday (except public holidays) www.tmbc.gov.uk/licensing

Any representations must be made in writing to the above local authority, clearly stating the grounds upon which representation is made relevant to the Licensing Act by 17th March 2017

The Licensing Authority must receive representations by the date given above. Representations must relate to one or more of the four licensing objectives: THE PREVENTION OF CRIME AND DISORDER, PUBLIC SAFETY, THE PREVENTION OF PUBLIC NUISANCE, and OR THE PROTECTION OF CHILDREN FROM HARM.

It is an offence under s 158 Licensing Act 2003. To knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with an application and the maximum fine, on summary conviction for the offence to a fine at Level 5 on the standard scale.

Stephen Thomas LAW, 8 Grassmere, Leybourne
West Malling, Kent ME19 5QP

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HOME: Gallagher Stadium, home of Maidstone United

Extended deal for Stones' Saunders

Maidstone United owners to continue "love affair" with boss

Football

By Tom Pyman
tom.pyman@archant.co.uk

MAIDSTONE United are continuing their "love affair" with Jay Saunders after the manager signed a one-year extension at the Gallagher Stadium this week.

Announcing the move on Stones TV, co-owners and directors Oliver Ash and Terry Casey said the decision was not sentimental, but a sensible business one, with the club going full-time from next season.

They added that even if the Stones were to be relegated from the National League, they had faith in their man to bounce straight back with promotion again the following year.

Mr Casey said: "We've wanted to make this announcement for some weeks and it's basically about us continuing our love affair with Jay Saunders who still remains the best manager that I've ever had any contact with.

"We felt it the right thing to do to nail down the future for the rest of this season and the start of next season and that gives everybody a bit of security for the future."

Mr Ash added: "We've had four or five tremendous seasons at the club, full of success, and one of the key ingredients of all that is Jay Saunders and his team.

"He and his family are really a part of the club, a part of the town, we feel, and he does too, that he belongs here, and we're delighted that he continues the adventure with us for another season.

"We're very fortunate that we've got a situation where we're able to have a good manager like Jay for many years at the club when you think that there are clubs out there, who shall remain nameless, who are already into their third or fourth manager of the season and that's hugely disruptive for all the activities at the club.

Mr Saunders said: "We've had a good relationship over the years working-wise and it's been a successful few years so delighted to get that done and put to bed so I can concentrate on what lies ahead for the rest of the season.

"I've been fortunate, I've always said that, they've always backed us and that's fully appreciated."

Defender brings Premier League experience

Football

A BUSY week of ins and outs at Gillingham continued with the signing of defender Zesh Rehman on Thursday.

After the signing of Ollie Muldoon and loss of Jay Emmanuel-Thomas, the Pakistani international, 33, has joined the Gills until the end of the season, and brings great experience into the club having played in the Premier League, Championship and League One during his career to date.

A Fulham academy product, he signed professional terms with the West London side shortly before he made his debut in their League Cup fixture against Wigan Athletic in September 2003.

His maiden Premier League start came at Anfield against Liverpool the following April, as Rehman became the first British Asian player to appear in an English top division fixture.

SIGNING: Zesh Rehman

"I had a chat with the head coach, I was really impressed with what he had to say, and I'm hoping I can use my experience to help the team," said Rehman.

"I'm looking forward to rolling my sleeves up and helping in the fight to move the club up the League One table.

"I watched Tuesday's draw against AFC Wimbledon and thought the boys did enough to win, so it's clear I'm joining a talented squad of players.

"If we all pull in the same direction and never give up, I'm sure we can get a few wins on the bounce."

Boss Ady Pennock said: "As everybody knows, I've been after an experienced centre-back for a few weeks and I'm very pleased to get Zesh on board."

Sport Shorts

» Email **sports@kosmedia.co.uk** or call **Tom Pyman** on **01233653477**

Takeover on the cards as Bull departs Blues

NIKKI Bull has announced he has resigned as manager of Margate.

The Blues have been dogged by financial troubles all season and an early exit from the FA Cup back in October put particular strain on the club and its finances.

Bull had to appear on the pitch himself as bosses struggled to balance the books, with a high turnover of playing staff as the Gate slumped to the foot of the National League South table.

In a statement on the club's website, Bull said: "As everybody has been aware the club has experienced severe financial problems over the past six months.

"I am proud that during this time we have managed to not only keep the club in business but also stabilise it and meet the financial issues head-on and resolve them in the correct manner to the point that now the club is an attractive proposition for new investors.

"I would like to thank all of the supporters that have given me fantastic support during my time."

DEPARTING: Nikki Bull

PACEMAN: Kent's Matt Coles

Coles injury as county champs loom closer

KENT paceman Matt Coles has withdrawn from the North v South series and MCC Champion County match in Abu Dhabi next month to rest a toe injury.

The 26-year-old was sidelined for three matches of the recent FGS Plant Tour through injury and will miss the trip as a precaution to be fully fit for the County Championship season, which kicks off on Friday, April 7.

Club teammates Daniel Bell-Drummond and Sam Northeast will take to the crease to represent the South against a North XI in the 50-over series on March 17-21.

Kent captain Northeast will also lead an MCC XI against Middlesex in a floodlit four day match taking place between March 27 and March 30.

Judo prospects off to Sheffield

PROMISING judo prospects from an Ashford academy have won silver medals in a major regional tournament.

Daniel Brown, who attends John Wallis Academy in Ashford, and Charlotte Nixon, of Folkestone School for Girls, competed in the British Schools Southern Area Championships and both claimed second place finishes.

Their triumph means they are automatically entered into the National Championships in Sheffield in April.

Senior club coach, Jim Winter-Nolan, said: "Both Daniel and Charlotte fought hard for their medals and performed admirably against other Judo players from across Hampshire, Kent, Surrey and Sussex in a very competitive arena."

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